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A SHORT HISTORY OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF  
**Ribington**



A SHORT HISTORY OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF

**Rivington**

IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE  
**Church and Grammar School**

BY

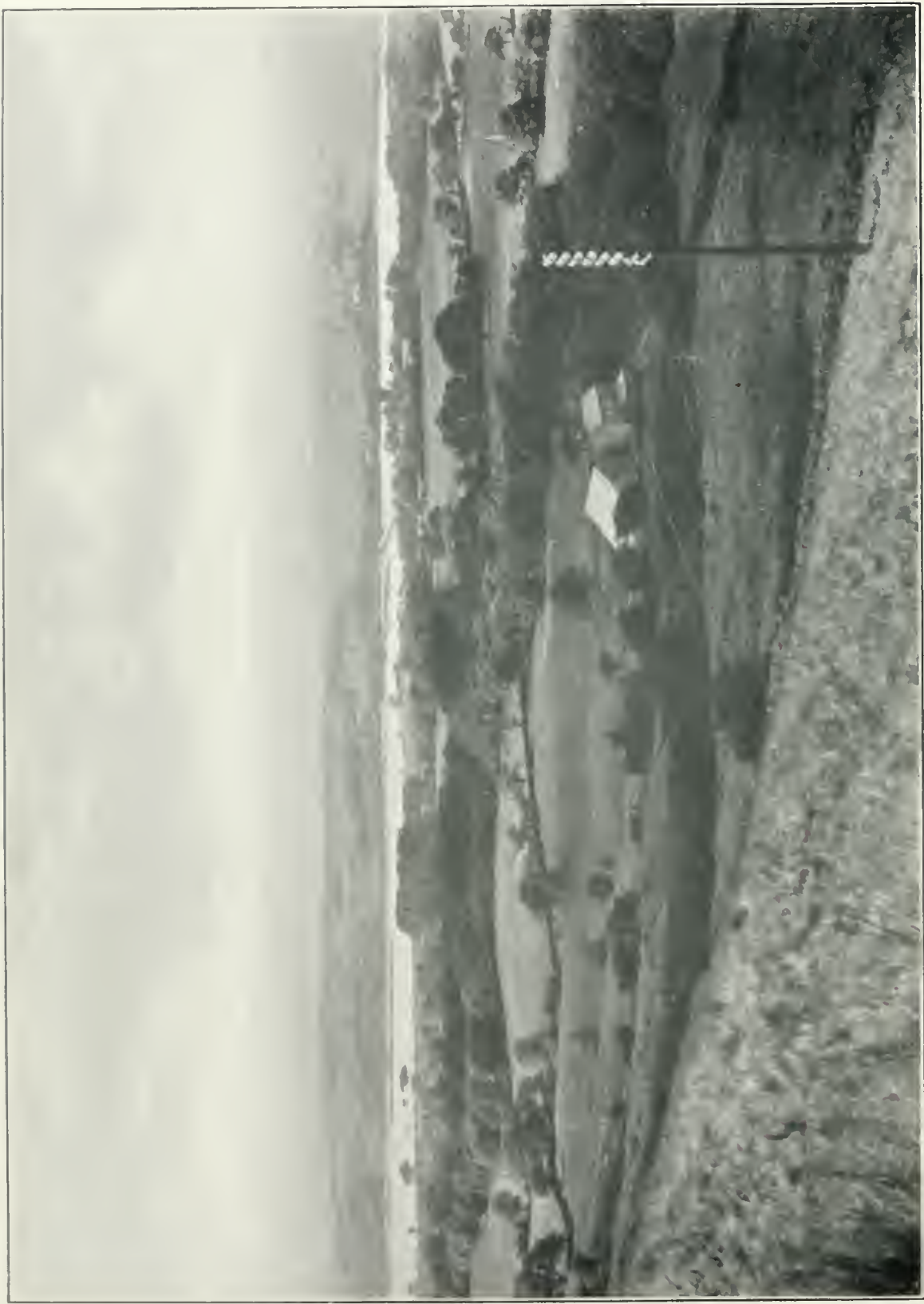
WM. FERGUSON IRVINE

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VIEW FROM THE SLOPES OF THE PIKE (LOOKING WESTWARD).

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## PREFACE

THE intention of this book is not to present the reader with a dry archæological account of the history of the township. The aim of the writer has been rather to put together a consecutive account of the descent of the Manor and the history of the Church, the old Nonconformist Chapel, and the Grammar School in a popular way, choosing in the main such incidents in the story of Rivington as illustrate the manners and customs of our forefathers. To some people an account of this kind makes no appeal, but the writer ventures to hope that there are many who, while not attracted by the minutiae of antiquarian research, are sufficiently interested in a general way in the history of their neighbourhood to follow the story with pleasure.

The idea of this book originated with Mr. W. H. Lever. When talking over the history of the countryside, Mr. Lever suggested that the scattered facts known about Rivington should be collected into a consecutive story, and this book is the outcome. It is hardly necessary to add how much the writer owes to Mr. Lever for the great interest he has taken in the work as it progressed, and for his constant encouragement and help, especially in giving full access to the Rivington charters and documents, many of which are dated as early as the thirteenth century.

The writer is very grateful to the numerous friends who



have so cordially helped in this work, especially to Mr. William Farrer, of Leyburn, for help and advice, and for the loan of his transcripts of the Towneley Manuscripts and other material from his unrivalled collection of Lancashire documents; to Colonel John Pilkington, of Wavertree, for transcripts of Rivington papers and the loan of several blocks and plates for reproduction in the volume; to the Rev. William Ritson, the Rev. Samuel Thompson, and Mr. Andrews Crompton, for much kindly help and advice and many suggestions from their stores of local knowledge. The especial thanks of the writer are due to Mr. Thompson for the loan of the negative of the view from Rivington Pike and for notes on the inscribed stones of the old houses. For valuable suggestions on the subject of Place Names, the writer is indebted to Mr. Henry Harrison, the author of "The Place Names of the Liverpool District," and finally to Mr. J. Paul Rylands for his kindness in drawing the interesting inscribed and dated door-plates, and for constant thoughtful advice and help.





Reduced by permission of the Ordnance Department from the Six-inch Ordnance Survey. With additions showing the proposed New Public Park and new roads.

MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVINGTON.

SCALE. 1 MILE

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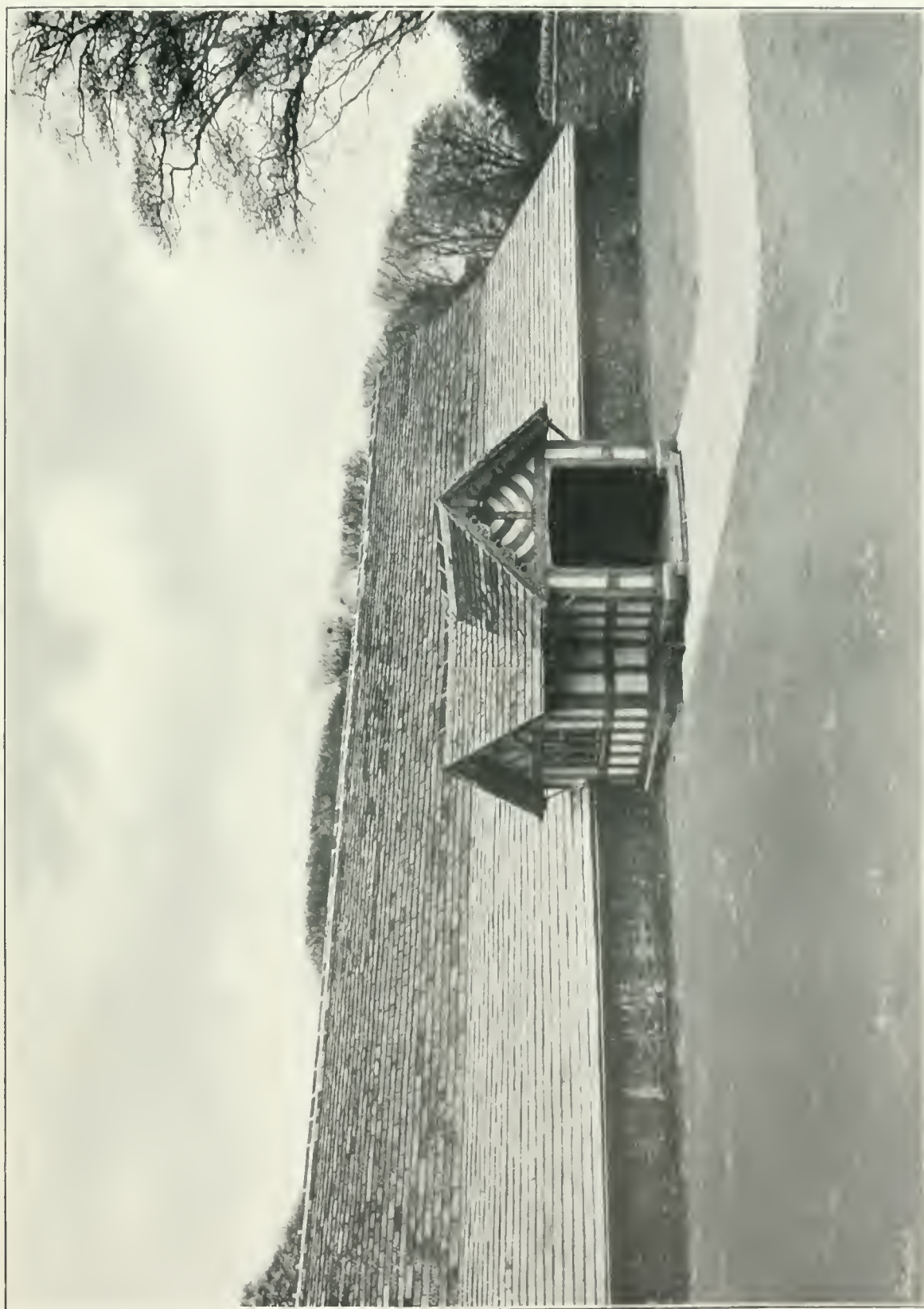


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EXTERIOR OF OLD HALL BARN (AFTER RESTORATION)



## INTRODUCTION

**R**IVINGTON is an oasis in a desert of rapidly blackening country. The encircling flames of industry are fast licking up all the green and tender things of life, leaving only an arid waste of cinder heaps. The curves of the oak and beech have given way to the straight chimney-shaft, while the farmstead with its quaint gables has been levelled to find space for gaunt factory walls. But at the borders of Rivington all this is stayed. A city thirty miles away must have water free from taint, and so a wide tract of hillside is chosen, and an invisible barrier encircles it, through which no factory may penetrate.

Within this oasis stands the Pike, and behind it the still higher crest of Winter hill. Sitting there on a summer day, amid the drowsy hum of the bees, while the call of the moorcock floats across the heather, it is difficult to believe that below in the plains on the right hand and on the left the great shuttle is clattering to and fro in the roaring loom of life. To the south lies Horwich with its vast engine-works, while to the north are Chorley and Preston, the mills of Belmont are behind, and the pits of Duxbury blacken the ridge to the westward. Still even to these disfigurements distance is kind, and looking down from the Pike one sees only miles of rolling country, while in front the folds smooth out into a velvet plain fringed afar by the white waves of the Irish Sea.

But a beautiful oasis, peopled only by the bees and the

grouse or at best by a few shepherds, would have been of little service to the great mass of dwellers in the surrounding towns; and as year by year access to fields and moorland became more restricted, the time seemed near when the green oasis would only be a picture to be gazed at from afar. It was then that Mr. W. H. Lever acquired the Manor of Rivington, together with the greater portion of the township, and decided to set aside the rich meadow lands of the lower slopes as well as the crest of the hill, to be given to the people of Bolton as a park for ever.

The extent of this splendid gift will be seen from the map at the beginning of this book, and when the unique character of the upper portion of the land, including the summit of the Pike itself, is considered, it may probably be said without fear of contradiction that as a public park Lever Park has few rivals in Europe. Not the least among the benefits included in the gift must be reckoned the recently made and finely engineered roads, which render access to the Pike from all points a matter of ease and comfort.

How many centuries ago this spot was first seized on by man as a shelter from his enemies in the encircling forest can never be told, but all about us lie traces of remote antiquity. On the surrounding moors are many relics of the early days when,

Paynim amid their circles, and the stones  
They pitch up straight to heaven,

our forefathers worshipped the sun and moon. At Noon Hill is still to be seen a tumulus,<sup>1</sup> which in prehistoric times may

<sup>1</sup> The diameter of the circle, measured from the crest of the bank, is 28 feet, and the average height of the bank above the surrounding land is about 6 feet. A large stone occupies the centre of the circle, and may have supported a central pole if the circle was originally roofed.

have been an outpost in a scheme of defence, of which the Pike was the central hold.

The Pike itself, that is, the curious hog-backed mound which crowns the summit of the hill and on which stands the Beacon, shows signs of having been at least shaped by artificial means. No doubt it is mainly a natural feature, but there are distinct traces of its having been trimmed and the approach steepened at several points. The Beacon, built in 1733 as the inscription states, no doubt took the place of an earlier structure, and it is not improbable that the "Standing-Stone," mentioned in the charter quoted on page 8, may have actually occupied this spot.

Down below, on the edge of the lake, rises a hillock, now partly covered with trees, known as Coblowe, which may have been an early burial-mound. The word *low*, from the old English *hlaw*, meaning a hill, when used in place-names almost invariably points to a barrow or prehistoric burial-place. The name Street, too, as stated later on, takes one's mind back to remote times, nearly two thousand years ago, when the Romans occupied Britain, and sought to restrain by a chain of forts the wild tribes of the land that was one day to be Lancashire.

But these are the regions of poetry, where thought may run riot, and we must leave them to descend to the more sober plains, where dull-written records and hard facts curb the mind and clog the pen.







INTERIOR OF OLD HALL BARN (AFTER RESTORATION).

DIMENSIONS    LENGTH, 105 FEET 8 INCHES;    WIDTH BETWEEN THE CRUCKS, 25 FEET 6 INCHES

TOTAL WIDTH INCLUDING OUTSHOTS, 57 FEET 6 INCHES





# HISTORY OF RIVINGTON

## CHAPTER I

### HISTORY OF THE MANOR

**T**HOUGH not mentioned by name in the Domesday Book, there can be but little doubt that Rivington existed as a Manor at a date long anterior to the Norman Conquest. The fact that in the Great Inquest of 1212<sup>1</sup> it is stated that Alexander Pilkington held his land there in thanage may be taken as proof of this, thanage being essentially a Pre-Conquest form of tenure.

The Anglo-Saxon thane originally held a high social position as a free military tenant, who fought under his lord and whose oath was reckoned as worth that of six "churls." For some time, however, before the Norman Conquest his position, for various reasons, had been growing less enviable, and we may be sure it was not improved when the Conquest took place. There are in the Domesday Book for Lancashire<sup>2</sup> some interesting and curious particulars as to the customs under which the thanes held their lands.

<sup>1</sup> Testa de Nevil, *Memb.* 5. The entry is as follows : "Alexander de Pikinton tenet vj bovatas terre in Ruhwinton in thainagio per x solidos et filii avunculi sui tenent illam terram de eo."

<sup>2</sup> Domesday Book, f. 269*d*.

Those of Salford Hundred, and consequently the Thane of Rivington, had certain slight advantages over their brethren in some of the other Hundreds, but at the best their circumstances were not happy.

It was the custom before the Conquest for each thane to pay an annual rent to the King of a few shillings, according to the rating of his land to the tax known as the Danegeld. In addition to this the thanes of Salford Hundred were bound to help in the repair of the King's fisheries, and to make one "hay" or enclosure for cattle in the King's woods. Any one neglecting these duties was fined two shillings, and had to labour until the work was finished instead of leaving off when his share was complete. He was subject to heavy fines, amounting sometimes to forty shillings, equivalent perhaps to one hundred pounds of modern money, if he committed theft, broke into a house, or was guilty of crimes of violence. Even if he failed to appear at the shire-moot or Shire Court, without reasonable excuse, such as sickness or impassable roads, he was liable to a fine of ten shillings, while for absence from the Hundred Court the fine was five shillings. In addition to all this the Rivington thane could not leave his land without the King's licence at the risk of a heavy fine, and if a son at his father's death chose to take up the responsibility of the land he was obliged to pay a heriot or succession duty of forty shillings; while if he elected to abandon it, the land and all that was on it, stock and crop, reverted to the King.

If such were the restrictions under which the owner of Rivington Hall and Manor laboured eight hundred years ago, we may be sure the villeins, who were the equivalent of the

modern tenant-farmer in the social life of that day, suffered correspondingly, while one hardly likes to dwell in imagination on the lot of the serfs, who filled the places now occupied by the cottagers and farm labourers. But Englishmen, and especially Lancashire men, have a way of adapting circumstances to themselves as well as the reverse process, and so perhaps the lot of the villagers of Rivington, when King William the First reigned, was not so depressing and cruel as official records would lead us to think.

Nothing is known of the Thane of Rivington at the time of the Conquest, or indeed for more than a hundred years after, but when history dawns we find a family being called by the name of the village, De Rivington, holding a small estate under the Pilkingtons, the Lords of the Manor, and it is not impossible that these De Rivingtons or De Royntons, as they are usually called, represented the English Thane who was dispossessed at the time of the Conquest, while the Pilkingtons, who had possibly acquired the lordship of the Manor by marriage,<sup>1</sup> represented the dispossessing Norman.

At this early date, surnames, as we understand them, had

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Farrer in his "Lancashire Inquests," p. 67 (Rec. Soc. Lanc. and Chesh., vol. xlviii.), writes: "Alexander de Pilkington was the mesne tenant [of Rivington], and his half-brothers, *i.e.* the sons of his stepfather (as we think *avunculus* should here be rendered), held it of him. They appear, from two early Final Concords levied at Lancaster in 1202, to have been Thomas de Rivington and Henry de Pilkington. As the said Concords were made as the result or ending of pleas of assize of *mort d'ancestor*, we are inclined to believe that, the mother of Alexander de Pilkington being then recently deceased, Alexander, her son and heir, had claimed Rivington as his right, and had duly substantiated his title thereto against his half-brothers. Probably the bovates which Alexander thus recovered were held by others for a yearly service, and the rights of homage and service from these bovates alone, and not the right to the lands which Thomas de Rivington and his brother Henry held in their own hands (*i.e.* in demesne in Rivington), had been the subject of litigation."

not come into common use even among the nobility, so that it is perhaps rather misleading to give a list of the principal inhabitants. Still, if we bear in mind that none of the names were fixed, but were liable to change at any time, it may not be uninteresting to see such a list drawn from a variety of sources, mainly, however, from the early Towneley Manuscripts at the British Museum.<sup>1</sup>

The names relate to the early part of the thirteenth century, say about the year 1240.

Alexander de Pilkington,<sup>2</sup>  
William de Rivington,  
Richard de Gamelslegh,  
William del Knoll,  
John del Broadhurst,  
Robert de Asshawe.

In retaining the French preposition "De," the writer has followed a time-honoured usage, but it must not be supposed that the bearers of the different names were thus known amongst their friends. Dickon o' Gamelslegh and Will o' th' Knoll is in all probability the style under which they would be known to the countryside. Each of these men and his descendants held substantial portions of the township, and beyond paying a small, almost nominal quit-rent to the lord

<sup>1</sup> As numerous references will be made to these throughout the following pages, it may be well to explain that these manuscript copies of Rivington Deeds were made in 1661 by Towneley, from the originals then lent to him by Mr. Breres, at that time joint Lord of the Manor. These copies are now in the British Museum. The writer is indebted to William Farrer, Esquire, of Leyburn, for the loan of his transcripts of these important documents.

<sup>2</sup> It is doubtful whether we may claim this man as an inhabitant; it is more probable that he lived mainly at Pilkington, near Bury.

of the Manor, and doing suit at his Court, were practically freeholders in Rivington. The Rivington family property seems to have lain at the north-west corner of the township, while the Broadhursts held some land a little to the south of Rivington village,<sup>1</sup> and the Knolls and the Gamelsleghs<sup>2</sup> at the extreme south-west.

The earliest grant of land in Rivington of which we have any record is an undated one about the year 1250,<sup>3</sup> in which Simon of Rivington grants to William of Brownhill all his land in Winterhold, within certain bounds. Winterhold appears to have been the northern portion of the township of Rivington, and the name only exists now in the corrupted form of Winterhill, as applied to the higher of the two peaks. It is interesting to notice that a farm known as Brownhill is still in existence, no doubt standing on the site of the abode of this grantee of Rivington land nearly seven hundred years ago. The boundaries of the land conveyed, which are stated exhaustively in this document, run from the north-western corner of the township through a marsh known as the Tunstead End, in a straight line to the Hoarstones at the head of Hordern's Clough. This must be the highest point of the road over to Belmont, where the Hordern Stoops still mark the boundary of the township, while a few yards further on the name Hoarstones Brow approximately marks the site of the Hoarstones. From this

<sup>1</sup> As will be seen on p. 22, the writer considers it probable that the Broadhurst estate is represented to-day by the Great House Farm.

<sup>2</sup> Gamleys Meadow, a corruption of Gamelsleys Meadow, occurs in a list of fields sold to the Liverpool Corporation in 1849. Its position is now covered by the filter-beds of the Liverpool Waterworks, near the Horwich boundary.

<sup>3</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1818. See Appendix, p. 154.



point the boundary led straight up to "Winterhold Pick," or Winterhold Pike, as we should call it. The next point in the perambulation is a spot called the "Armischeued" or Ormshead, the location of which is now unknown; possibly it may be an old name for Noon Hill, as the boundary ultimately terminates near Dean Head, and Noon Hill would thus be in the direct line. The land enclosed by these boundaries is very extensive so far as acreage is concerned, but cannot have been of much value at this time, when nearly the whole of it was moor and marsh.

Before leaving the subject of Winterhill, it may be of interest to mention another grant of land there, about the same date.<sup>1</sup> This is from Roger of Rivington (or Rothington, as he spells his name) to Hugh, son of William of Worthington, of all his part of Winterhold. The land, which seems to have lain more to the south than that named in the earlier grant,<sup>2</sup> is stated to be within certain boundaries, which run "from the Dean Head to the boundary of the Forest, and so following the boundary between the Forest and Rivington to Winterhold Pike, and thence along the highest part of the Edge to a place called Remescloough,"<sup>3</sup> and so by various points back to the starting-place. The special interest of this document lies in the mention of the Forest, showing that Sharples at this date was considered forest land, and no doubt formed part of the vast forest which circled round Rivington in a magnificent belt from Horwich through Sharples and

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1974. See Appendix, p. 155.

<sup>2</sup> A portion at least of this grant must have overlapped the land mentioned in the earlier one.

<sup>3</sup> This word is not very clear in Towneley's copy; it may be Romescloough, in which case it should probably be represented to-day by such a word as Ramsclough.



Anglezargh, and swept away northward to join the great chase of Pendle.

It appears probable that the grantor in this case, Roger of Rivington, was originally known as Roger of Worsley, who had married Cicely, daughter of William Rivington, about the year 1250. His widow, calling herself "Cicely, late wife of Roger of Worsley and daughter of William of Rivington," appears in several of the early charters. In one dated about 1280<sup>1</sup> she was the recipient of a grant of a portion of the very land of Winterhold which her ancestors and her husband had given away.

With Cicely Worsley (*née* Rivington) we emerge more into the light of day, and from that date until the present the descent of the Manor is clear and the stores of original documents large and varied. Among Mr. Lever's muniments<sup>2</sup> the earliest and one of the most interesting is a grant, undated but probably made in 1280, from Cicely to a certain Adam son of Robert son of Dorant, of one-fourth part of Knollshaw. Knollshaw appears to have been at the southern extremity of the township, and the boundaries named in the deed give some very early forms of place names in Rivington and the first known mention of Rivington Pike.

The grant includes a gift of all the land within the following metes :—

Beginning at Kaldewelle below the house of William, following below the bank as far as the Querin-stanes-clif, and so following Querin-stanes-clif into Frid-broc, and so ascending to the Highway and following the Highway to Roun

<sup>1</sup> Rivington Muniments.

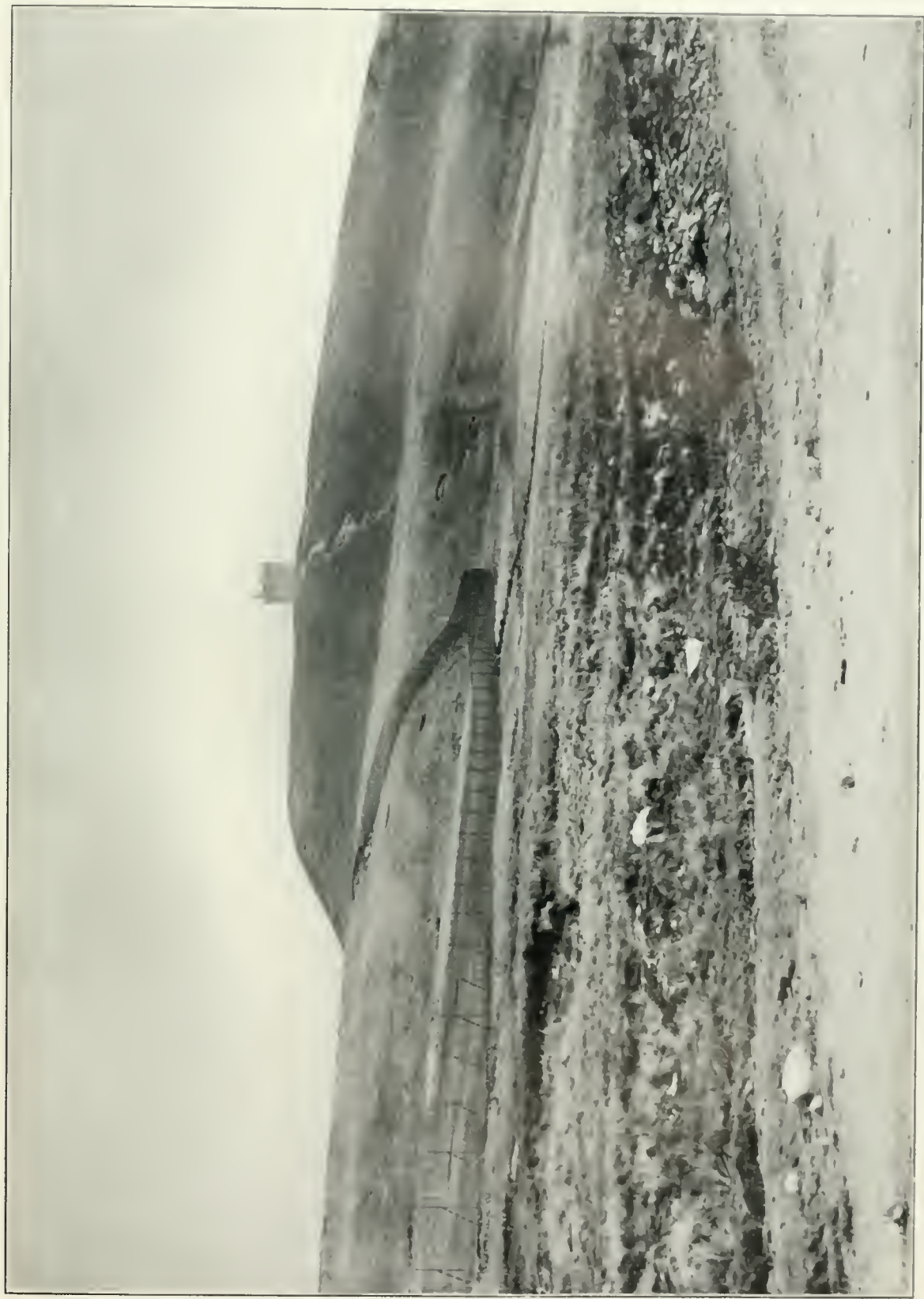
<sup>2</sup> See Appendix, p. 156.

Pike as far as Stondandeston, thence going as far as to the top of Cringel-broc-hevyd, and so coming down Cringel-broc to the foot of the Clif, and so following the Clif to Kaldewelle, which was the starting-point.

To put this in modern English we should say : Starting at the Coldwell below William's house go along the bank as far as the Quernstone Cliff, follow this to the Frith Brook, go up the brook to the Highway, and follow this towards Rivington Pike until you reach the Standing Stone, thence go to Cringle Brook Head, come down Cringle Brook to the foot of the bank, and follow the bank back to Coldwell, which was the starting-point.

The general position of the land thus granted is fairly clear, though some of the details are obscure.

Curiously enough, close to Lower Knoll Farm there is a house still known as Old Will's. It is perhaps rather an effort of the imagination to see in this the "William's House" mentioned in the deed, but it is not by any means impossible. Below this house is a steep declivity to the River Douglas, which might well be dignified by the name of Cliff, and here are still the remains of a quarry, which in mediæval times may have yielded hard sandstone suitable for making querns and millstones, in which case the Quernstone Cliff would be the north bank of the Douglas, and the Frith Brook an ancient name for the little stream which used to run into the Douglas below Lower Knoll Farm, and which rose close to Prospect House. The Highway is doubtless the old high-road past the Pike, which after falling into disuse for many years has recently been remetalled, and is now recovering some of its former dignity. From a point on the Highway marked in



THE PIKE (View from the South Lodge).



these early times by a standing stone,<sup>1</sup> which was probably an ancient stone monument of so-called Druidical origin, the boundary crosses to the head of the Cringle Brook, possibly identical with the stream which flows through the Crooked Edge Clough, and joins the Douglas below Lower Knoll Farm. This is probable, since the word "cringle" in Middle English meant crooked or twisted, in fact is the same word as our modern crinkle. From this point the return journey to the Coldwell is soon accomplished.

Another point of interest in this grant is the reference to three acres of Church land. Rivington Church is usually understood to date from the earlier part of the sixteenth century, but, as will be seen presently, there are indications that a church existed at a much earlier date. If, however, no church stood at Rivington in 1280, this piece of land must have belonged to the mother church of Bolton. The land named was probably, so the context seems to indicate, the Church's share in some enclosure from the moor. The "assart," or ridding, in exchange for which these three acres had been given, was a piece of land reclaimed from woodland or moorland, and the expression is derived from an old Norman French word meaning to dig up by the roots.

For several centuries the history of the village is mainly identified with the family of Pilkington, the lords of the Manor, and the only light we get on Rivington is from the various

<sup>1</sup> From a point on this highway almost due west from the Tower on the Pike, runs an ancient ditch and bank. This can be traced over the moor to the Douglas, whence after crossing the stream it goes in the direction of Crooked Edge Clough. It is difficult to see what the purpose of such a ditch can have been except as a boundary, and it is not impossible that this may have been dug to define the northerly extremity of the land of "Adam son of Robert son of Dorant."



legal documents, which have come down to us through the successive owners of the Manor.

The Pilkingtons originally came from a township near Bury, whence they derived their distinctive patronymic, and at some early date, possibly towards the end of the twelfth century, acquired possession of Rivington, where, as we have already seen, they were seated at the time of the Great Inquest in 1212. Throughout the thirteenth century, however, the Pilkingtons do not seem to have lived at Rivington, so that most of our knowledge of the doings of its inhabitants comes through the grants of lands from the smaller holders, such as the Rivingtons, the Knolls, and the Broadhursts. According to the carefully prepared account of the family of Pilkington, drawn up by Colonel Pilkington,<sup>1</sup> the Manor of Rivington descended from Alexander, who held it in 1212, to a son of the same name, and from him to his son Sir Roger Pilkington, whose brother, Richard Pilkington, was probably the first of the family to be closely identified with Rivington. Richard married Ellen, daughter of William Anderton of Rumworth, about 1297, and with her obtained lands in Rivington. He probably died about 1315, and was succeeded by his son Robert, who, we may conclude, lived at the Hall, as in all the Subsidy Rolls, or taxation returns, for the period he heads the list for Rivington. Colonel Pilkington identifies this Robert with a Robert Pilkington who gave evidence at the famous Scrope-Grosvenor trial in 1385; but if this is so, he certainly lived to a green old age.

That we may have some idea of the names of the in-

<sup>1</sup> "The History of the Lancashire Family of Pilkington," by Lieut.-Col. John Pilkington, F.S.A.

habitants of the township at this period, the two Subsidy Rolls for 1327 and 1332<sup>1</sup> are here printed.

1327.

## "ROUYNTON."

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Robert Pilkington . . . . .	1	7
Adam son of Robert . . . . .	0	11
Alexander son of Hugh . . . . .	1	0
William Bradshaw . . . . .	0	10
John Erlegh . . . . .	0	8
John Gameleslegh . . . . .	0	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total . . . . .	5	9 $\frac{3}{4}$

1332.

## "ROYNTON."

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Robert Pilkington . . . . .	3	4
Adam son of Robert . . . . .	1	0
William Broadhurst . . . . .	1	0
William Gamelslegh . . . . .	1	0
William Gamelslegh, senior . . . . .	1	0
John Erlegh . . . . .	1	0
John son of Mabel . . . . .	1	8
Total . . . . .	10	0

For the sake of comparison, it may be mentioned that, in the second list (1332), Bolton-le-Moors paid a tax amounting to 20s. ; Oldham, 16s. 4d. ; Blackrod, 9s. ; Anderton, 10s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ; and Heath Charnock, 16s.

Robert Pilkington had a son Richard, to whom, in 1336, he made a grant of an important portion of Rivington township. The boundaries mentioned in the deed show that the grant

<sup>1</sup> Public Record Office, London. Lay Subsidies, Co. Lanc., No. 1329, 1 Edw. III., and 1330, 6 Edw. III. The spelling of the names of the inhabitants has been modernised.

included the whole of the present village that clusters round the church—at least so much of it as Robert had any rights over—and a considerable tract of land on either side, but as the document<sup>1</sup> is of special importance, and is the second oldest in Mr. Lever's possession, it may interest readers to see a full abstract of it in English, especially as it will give a fairly good idea of the style and general tenor of such documents.

“Robert de Pilkynton grants to Richard, his son, and Joan, daughter of John de Heton, and their heirs lawfully begotten between them, all those lands and tenements, &c., in Rovyngton, within the following boundaries, viz. : Beginning at an oak in Le Lone [the Lane], and so following Le Lone unto Tunstede broke, and so in a straight line over Le Broke to the hedge, which is the division between Le Goseheye and Le Fernyleghe, and so following the said hedge to the middle of Baxstonedene broke, and so coming down the middle of the stream of Baxstonedene broke to the boundary between Andreton and Rovyngton, and thence coming down the division between Andreton and Rovyngton as far as the boundary of Le Brodehurst, and thence following the boundary of Le Brodehurst, to the oak in Le Lone, which was the first boundary mark. To hold of the chief lords, &c., with common of pasture for all the cattle of the said Richard and Joan and their tenants, with housebote and haybote in the woods of Rovyngton for housebuilding and firewood, &c. And if the said Richard should die without heirs the above land and tenements to remain to John, brother of the said Richard, and his heirs ;

<sup>1</sup> Rivington Muniments, No. 3.



and if the said John should die without heirs, the said lands, &c., to remain to William his brother and his heirs; and if the said William should die without heirs, the said lands, &c., to remain to Margaret his sister and her heirs; and if the said Margaret should die without heirs, the said lands, &c., to revert to the said Robert de Pilkynton and his heirs. Sealed in the presence of Roger de Pilkynton, Adam de Lever, John de Heton, John, son of Henry de Hulton, Richard the Clerk, and others. Given at Rovyngton on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 10 Edward III. (25th March, 1336)."

If we modernise this account of the boundaries, it reads as follows: "Beginning at an oak in the Lane go along the Lane to Tunstead Brook, from thence in a straight line across the brook to the hedge which divides the Goosehey and the Fernyley. Go along this hedge to the middle of the Baxstone Dean Brook, and then go down the middle of the stream of the brook to the boundary between Anderton and Rivington. Thence go down this dividing line as far as the boundary of the Broadhurst, and follow this to the oak in the Lane, which was the starting point."

The land enclosed within these limits would no doubt be a considerable portion of the township, as it was evidently Robert Pilkington's provision for a son who was just beginning his career, and the fact that houses and tenants are mentioned as being within the area further indicates that we are dealing with more than simply a few acres. A careful comparison of a number of Rivington documents and a study of the modern field names leads the writer to the conclusion that

by the Tunstead Brook is meant what is now called the Hall Brook, while the Baxstone Dean Brook has been simplified into the modern Dean Brook. "The Lane" is Rivington Lane, so that if we could only fix the exact site of "the oak in the Lane" the whole outline of the land would be clear. The Fernley and the Goosehey were just behind the New Hall farm buildings and the Unitarian Chapel.

There is not much in the Charter itself to call for comment. It is evidently the endowment of a son, probably an eldest son who is about to assume the responsibility of matrimony and start in life for himself. The apparently vague statement that the grant included the right of "common of pasture for all the cattle of the said Richard and Joan and their tenants" was no doubt very strictly circumscribed by the unwritten law of the manor, which only permitted a certain fixed number of cattle to be grazed by each cottage. When dealing with social life in mediæval times one must never lose sight of the fact that the strongest and most rigid law was often the unwritten one. A transfer of land was a very literal thing. It was not the deed or writing that constituted the transfer, but the act of being led on to the land in the presence of the other freeholders and villeins of the manor, and being given actual physical possession. Again, the apparently elastic right of free firewood and building timber had its severe limitations, and if any of Master de Pilkington's tenants had ventured to take a load more firewood or a log more for his new cowhouse than was strictly his right, he would very soon have found his conduct the subject of searching investigation before the manor court, and his

punishment sharp and prompt. Thus, although the expressions of an early Charter may sound to us loose and inexact, they were of much less importance than the customs of the manor, which ruled all dealings within its boundaries with rigid exactness. Each little manor was a tiny state in itself, with its unwritten laws and customs, its regularly appointed officials, and its—in many ways—truly democratic constitution. There can be no doubt that it was in the manorial court that Englishmen learnt many of their lessons of the rights of man, and acquired their inbred love for constitutional forms and procedure.

Throughout the fourteenth century little can be told of the history of Rivington. Abroad England was pursuing her French wars with more or less success, army after army left these shores to fight, and in many cases to die, on the distracted fields of France. Several of the Pilkingtons and many of the surrounding landowners crossed the seas to try their fortunes, and doubtless many of the villagers of the time left the plough to follow their squire to the wars as archers and men-at-arms; but beyond a few records of "letters of safe conduct" to places beyond the sea, we have little to tell us of what was passing in the township.

The descent of the manor is not very clear for this period. Colonel Pilkington states that it passed from the Robert Pilkington who was the grantor in the last recited document, to his cousin Robert Pilkington, son of Sir Roger Pilkington mentioned on p. 10. This second Robert was a much younger man than his cousin, having been born probably about 1340. He gave evidence at the Scrope-Grosvenor trial in 1385, when he stated that he saw Master Robert Grosvenor bear

certain arms "at the taking of the Tower of Broses and at La Rocha sur Yon in Poitou" in 1369, so evidently he was a man of travel and experience.

During the year 1381 a very full taxation of the County was made in the form of a Poll Tax, and many of the returns from the various townships fortunately still survive. At Rivington, fifteen people paid the tax at the rate of three groats (or one shilling) per head. Some new names occur, and we realise from the list how very local the surname often was, being frequently taken from some natural object—a wood, a lane, or a meadow patch—which, though no doubt well known to the folk in the township, cannot have conveyed much to dwellers at a distance :—

ROV[INGTON]			
Robert of the Holmhad and his wife	.	.	2s.
John of the Lane [ <i>del Lone</i> ]	.	.	1s.
John of the Brodhurst and his wife	.	.	2s.
Richard of the Shaw [ <i>del Schagh</i> ] and his wife	.	.	2s.
John of Heton	.	.	1s.
John Mabson and his wife	.	.	2s.
Robert of the Brodhurst and his wife	.	.	2s.
Roger, son of John, and his wife	.	.	2s.
Alice of Hilton	.	.	[1s.]
Total of persons	.	.	15
Total of money	.	.	15s.

It is a common thing to hear thoughtless people speaking of the "good old times" as if we now-a-days were living in a degenerate age. There is perhaps no greater historical fallacy: the more we study the records of the past the more do we become convinced of the steady, though slow, upward growth of the race, mentally, morally, and physically. This is forcibly brought home to one by going through the documents relating

to the manor of Rivington, a few of which may be selected, as they illustrate in some degree the manners and ways of Lancashire society in the Middle Ages. To begin with, we find that the way of looking at marriage which seems to have been common a few hundred years ago in England was scarcely higher than that of the Hottentot to-day. Thus in 1379<sup>1</sup> we find a decree of divorce among the Rivington deeds breaking the marriage contract of Robert Pilkington and his wife Alice (Astley), and a little later a document<sup>2</sup> arranging a marriage between the same Robert, and Katherine, daughter of John Ainsworth. The document is in Norman-French, but an early abstract in English is also among the Towneley MSS., and is worth printing in full to show its cold-blooded commercialism :—

“ This Indenture made between John the sonne of John of Anysworth on the one partie and Robert Pilkington of Rovington on the other partie witnesseth that it is acorded between the said John and Robert that the said Robert shall take to wife Katherine the daughter of the said John for which marriage to bee had the said John shall give unto the said Robert xli<sup>li</sup>. If it fortunes any devource to be had between them the said parties that then the said Robert shall cause the said somme of money to bee repayed unto the sayd John. And if the said John and Elline his wife die without heires males that the whole lands and estate of him the said John shall remane unto the said Katherine without trouble or perturbation of one Adam Hulton cousin of the said Katherine (27th August 1383).”

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1785.

<sup>2</sup> Towneley MSS., Nos. 1968 and 1843.



Another document,<sup>1</sup> the text of which is rather corrupt, however, appears to complicate matters still further, as apparently Robert had been married, before the incident of the divorce with Alice Astley, to an Alice Hulton. This document is interesting, as it recounts the details of the marriage of Robert with Katherine Ainsworth, which took place at the Church of Castleton in the Peak district in the presence of a number of well-known Lancashire folk, among whom were Richard de Pilkington, parson of Prestwich, Simon de Stocke, vicar of Hope, William de Ryley, vicar of Castleton, Sir John de Pilkington, then esquire, Henry de Pilkington, Adam de Lever, Elias de Bradeshagh, and many others. It is curious to find a large number of friends thus travelling a considerable distance into Derbyshire to be present at a neighbour's wedding at a time of the year when the roads would not be at their best.

Robert Pilkington's grandson Ralph, some time lord of Rivington, a few years later than this also obtained a divorce from his wife, but only after an experience which gives us further light on the rough and lawless state of society at this time.<sup>2</sup> Among Mr. Lever's muniments still lies a copy of a writ dated 10th September 1431, addressed by the King to the Sheriff of Lancashire to arrest a number of men in the neighbourhood of Rivington for the heinous crime of carrying off the Lady of Rivington, as she might be called, together with £40 worth of her husband's property. A translation of the document is as follows:—

“The King to the Sheriff of Lancashire, Greeting. Cause to be summoned Geoffrey de Levesay, lately of Levesay, in your

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 2055.

<sup>2</sup> Rivington Muniments, No. 23.

County, Gentleman; Ralph de Levesay, of Levesay, Gentleman; Thurstan de Levesay, of Levesay, Yeoman; Thomas de Clayton, of Littelharwode, in the said County, Yeoman; Thomas de Couburn of Witton, in said County, Husbandman; and Roger Whalley, lately of Levesay, Gentleman, and if they do not appear take and safely keep them so that their bodies may be produced before our Justices at Lancaster on Thursday, in the second week of Lent, to answer Ralph de Pilkington of Rovyn-ton, concerning a plea that they together with John de Levesay, Gentleman; Elias de Aynesworth, of Plesyngton in said County, Gentleman; Lawrence de Aynesworth, of Preston in said County, Gentleman; Ralph de Aynesworth, of Tokholce, in said County, Gentleman; John de Harwode, of Hoghton, in said County, Yeoman; Geoffrey de Grymeshaw, of Clayton, in said County, Gentleman; and John, son of Thomas de Clayton, of Littleharwode, Yeoman, abducted Margery, wife of said Ralph de Pilkington at Rovyn-ton, together with goods and chattels to the value of £40, and detain the same to the great injury, &c., and against our peace. Return to our said Justice at Lancaster on Monday next, after Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, if said defendants are not in your bailiwick. And have you, &c.

"Witness, W. Babyngton, at Lancaster, 10th September, in 10th year of our reign (*i.e.*, Henry VI., 1431)."

To understand this strange suit we have to turn to the general history of the time and see at what juncture of national affairs it occurred.

The French wars under Henry V., gilded though they were by the romance of Agincourt, had in reality a most

disastrous effect on England.<sup>1</sup> The violence and anarchy which ever clung like a taint to the baronage had received new impulse, and the natural brutality of the soldiers had grown with the fresh opportunities for plunder and rapine. So soon as the strong hand of Henry was removed by his death in 1422, the war died down into mere brigandage and massacre, and the returning soldiery, finding England under the weak rule of a council made up of great lords and churchmen, broke out into the wildest excesses. The Church had sunk to the lowest point of degradation, and concerned itself solely with stamping out the smouldering embers of Lollardry, and bolstering up its unwieldy temporal estate from the attacks of the greedy nobles. The dissoluteness against which Lollardry had raised its voice in moral protest reigned now without a check. Bands of ruffians, often led by one of the nobles, devastated and terrorised large tracts of the country, and even the sittings of Parliament became like armed camps, till orders had actually to be issued forbidding the bearing of arms at these assemblies.

The utter anarchy and lawlessness of the time is seen in a proclamation which John of Gaunt thought well to issue, at a little earlier date than this, directed especially to the Sheriff of Lancashire, in which he gave express command to deal with the utmost severity "with all such malefactors and stealors of wives and daughters as well of the nobles as others as he might find."<sup>2</sup>

To return to the Rivington document. There is not much more to be said except that unfortunately we do not know

<sup>1</sup> Green's "Short History of the English People," p. 273.

<sup>2</sup> Beamont's "Annals of Warrington," p. 258.



whether or not right prevailed, and we can only hope that some at least of the ruffianly thirteen met with their deserts. The only indication, however, which we have, unfortunately points the other way, as we find the ringleader, Geoffrey Levesay, at large and transacting ordinary business in 1441. It is possible, of course, that the fault may have lain elsewhere, especially as we find among the Rivington Charters the original writing of divorcement, dated 24th July, 1432. By this the union which had been so rudely disturbed a year before is finally dissolved by the Archdeacon of Chester, on the petition of Margery, daughter of William de Lever, against Ralph de Pilkington.

That this was not an isolated outrage is shown by an action brought a couple of years later<sup>1</sup> (1st May 1434) by a certain Robert Unton against Alexander Pilkington of Rivington, Ralph his son (whose divorce proceedings have just been referred to), Henry his brother, William Pilkington, late of Rivington, Geoffrey Worsley, John Carlisle, and others, because they had with armed force insulted and abused him and committed other enormities to the damage of the said Robert and against the King's peace.

It is pleasant to turn from these wars and tumults to a more peaceful scene, and find in 1478 Robert Pilkington, the new Squire who succeeded at the death of his father Ralph in 1476, arranging to build a more spacious house on his manor of Rivington.<sup>2</sup> The document is an "indenture of agreement" between "Robert Pilkington of Rivington and

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1747.

<sup>2</sup> Towneley MSS., Nos. 1701 and 1737. These are two copies evidently of the same document, though the dates given are not identical. The date in the text is probably the correct one.

Adam Holden," and provides that Adam "shall make a Hall and a Crosse Chamber at Rovington of the said Robert's and that this is to bee done between this and St. Margaret's day next to come." The text is very corrupt, and evidently something is omitted, as the document continues, "which is to consiste of three binding every post and foote long." After this it becomes clear and describes "two great windowes xxx foote<sup>1</sup> high, xx foote broade," so that evidently the building was a noble and imposing one. After all this it is a little surprising to find that "the said Robert" appears to think he is discharging his obligation to his builder handsomely by undertaking to pay him the sum of nine marks in two half-yearly instalments of four and a half marks each.

There is not much to chronicle concerning Rivington during the next fifty years; but in 1506 an action was tried before the Duchy Court of Lancaster<sup>2</sup> with reference to the ownership of the Broadhurst estate, no doubt represented now by the Great House Farm. The case, which is more fully referred to later on, contains a rather amusing dispute as to the age of the defendant. The plaintiffs, Robert Banester and Hugh Eccleston, complain that "John a Shaa," the defendant, is a man of great riches, and lives near the lands, whereas the plaintiffs do not dwell in the county, and are poor and without friends; therefore, they appeal from the local Courts to that of the Duchy. John Shaw replies that the reason they appealed to the superior Court was, that as he is "feble impotent olde and seke and not able to ryde ne goo," they hoped, by appeal-

<sup>1</sup> There must surely be some error in the height of the windows—four or five feet would be a much more probable height. Compare the windows in the fifteenth century portion of "Hall i' th' Wood."

<sup>2</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xxxii. pp. 33-35.

ing, to compel him to agree with them. Plaintiffs refuse to accept this pathetic description, and state that, instead, defendant is a man "lusty and able to goo and ride and no man of so gret age as is spoken of" in the answer of defendant, "for he exceedith litill the age of fifty yeres." John Shaw, however, replies again that his first account is true, and that he is nearly eighty years old, "as is right well known in his cuntre," and that he may not "ryde ne goo." The result of the suit has not been preserved, but John Shaw probably won it, as his descendants, the Shaws of Heath Charnock, were enjoying the property two hundred years later than this.

Robert Pilkington was gathered to his fathers in 1508, and his son Richard reigned in his stead. Richard lived through a stirring time, perhaps the most stirring and remarkable that England has yet seen. Born about 1480, he was a young man when the first news of the wonderful discoveries of Cabot and Columbus reached England; in early manhood he heard of the mad monk Luther, who was defying the Papacy itself; saw the coming storm of religious change in England darkening till it burst in the dissolution of the monasteries and Henry's breach with Rome. He must have been deeply moved by, if he did not actually participate in, "the Pilgrimage of Grace," and may have witnessed its tragic end when the aged Abbot of Whalley was hung before his own monastery walls. He must have watched the still more radical changes that followed Henry's death, and died himself before the reaction under Mary had begun.

There are many documents relating to this time among the Rivington deeds, and we can only select a few. The first, which is of a quiet pastoral character, is as follows:—

"This indenture made ye fifth day of May ye XIII yere of the regne of Kynge Henrye ye VIIIth [1521] between Richarde Pylkyngton of Rovyngton in ye county of Lanc., gent., upon ye on parte and Peres Bradeley of Rovyngton, tenant to John Bradshaw, upon ye other parte, witnessethe that the sayd Richarde at the instant desyre and [request?] of ye said Peres hath suffered hym to make a new wayne gate thoroowtt a parcell of ground of ye said Rychardes calde Littell Rovyngton, now in the holdynge of Henry Bradley, brother unto the said Peres paying therefor yerely unto ye sayd Rycharde or his heyres iiijd or ij days shering [reaping] whether the said Richard doos call for. And over and besides that the sayde Peres to agre with his tenaunt for ye hurtt of his gresse at the syght & lymytation of ye sayd Richard or els to forbere the sayd gate and no further occupation to hafe thereof Provydit ever yt ytt shalle be lofull for the sayd Richard or his heys att all yeres and tymes to take uppe and stoppe the sayd wayne gate at his or ther plesor this Indentur not withstondynge. Thes wytnes Sir John Waryng prest, Rychard Whetyll, John Grene and others at Rovyngton the day and yere above sayde.

"[Endorsed] A Indentur betwixte Ric. Pilkington and Peter Bradley, paying yerely two dayes sherynge or 4d. in money whether the sayd Richard will accepte of."

[Small seal of brown wax, a face protruding a tongue.]

The document is mainly of interest on account of the language in which it is couched. Until the time of the dissolution of the monasteries (1535-38), it was the rule to indite all legal documents either in Latin or Norman-French, Latin



very largely preponderating, but from this date onward English rapidly began to win its way in legal instruments, until by the time of Queen Elizabeth practically all documents appear in a language "understanded of the people."

Though one does occasionally meet with documents in English in the Middle Ages, they are comparatively rare, and any writings of the date we are considering are of special interest, as they give us examples of the language at the time it was settling down into what may be termed its modern form. It has often been pointed out that it was the printing of the Bible in English that really fixed our language. The changes in English between the fourteenth century and the sixteenth century were infinitely greater than those between the sixteenth and twentieth. Doubtless this was due to the influence of the printing press, but the Bible was the one product of the printing press which went into every home in the land, and its English formed the model on which all language written and spoken was based. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that English from the very earliest time was constantly altering throughout the centuries, and altering so fast that one century could hardly have understood the language of its predecessor. This process of change continued unchecked until the sixteenth century, when it was suddenly arrested and the modern form emerged.

It is interesting, therefore, to see an example of English as it was written in Lancashire four years before Tyndale first translated the New Testament. A legal document is never a good means of judging English; the influence of Latin is too strong, and however unskilled the draftsman may be, his work is sure to show traces of this influence. Thus this

agreement, though evidently drawn up by some local scribe (possibly the priest who witnessed it) and not by one skilled in the law, still includes such Latin words as "indenture," "desire," "limitation," "occupation," "provided," &c.

In comparing the English with that now in use, it is well to remember a fact too often overlooked, that the letter "y" in the "ye" of mediæval English is really only the symbol used to denote the old English "th." If people would only bear this in mind we should be saved the wearisome pseudo-antique inscriptions that are seen so often. When we have smoothed out this peculiarity, it is surprising to find how modern the language really is. With the exception of the expression "wayne gate," meaning "cart-road," and "shering," meaning "reaping," there is probably nothing which requires explanation, and even these words are familiar to any Lancashire man who knows his countryside. The provisions of the agreement strike one as singularly one-sided, even when we consider that it is between landlord and tenant. That fourpence should be the equivalent of two days' labour in the harvest field gives us some idea of the value of money at that time.

As a contrast to the pastoral scene conjured up by this document, the next incident in the history of Rivington presents us with a picture full of tumult and passion. At the extreme north-western corner of the township lay a small estate overlapping into Heath Charnock known as Street, a name which sends our minds back to the days of the Roman occupation. This property gave its name at an early date to a local family, who held it for many years. In 1534,<sup>1</sup> however, died

<sup>1</sup> See Rec. Soc., vol. xxxv. p. 60, *et seq.*



Alexander Street, the last male of the line, leaving five young daughters. Unprotected heiresses always seem to rouse the cupidity of designing relations, and the first to seize the opportunity seems to have been one Richard Standish, clerk, a remote cousin. What exactly happened is not very clear, and the course of events is not made any clearer by the evidence given in the case which resulted, since, witness-like, both sides swore to diametrically opposed stories. Richard Standish says he was quietly in possession on the 1st November, when a hundred evilly disposed persons from Rivington and Heath Charnock swarmed round the house at Street, broke the windows, doors, and walls, and compelled plaintiff's servants to take to "an highe chamber in the house." While in hiding in this somewhat insecure place, they listened to the shouts of the assailants as they adjured them to "come oute of that house for if you wille not you must be pulled out by the hede," and threatened to "bryn the howse if ye com not forthe." Matters becoming somewhat too exciting for the besieged, they very wisely "avoyded out" of the chamber, and left the rioters in possession, narrowly escaping with their lives; for they say, if "Maistres Ashow" and other honest women had not been there, they would have been slain.

The rioters' story, however, differs considerably. Ralph Arrowsmith, gentleman; Nicholas and George Hylton of Heath Charnock; and Roger Ugnell of Rivington, who seem to have been the ringleaders, say that they were acting as guardians to the orphan children, when, about nine o'clock on the morning of the Feast of All Hallows, while the household of Street and all other respectable people were in Church at Blackrod, the plaintiffs, "perceiving that the said daughters

were very young and tender of age," the eldest being only thirteen, with force and arms entered the house, finding no creature there except the three youngest children, one of whom was in the cradle. They proceeded, so the defendants relate, to "cast" the baby out of the cradle and to hurt the arm of one of the other children, and then locked up the house, remaining inside. We get some idea of the length of Church services at this time, as it was not until "four hours and more" had passed that the household returning from Church discovered the intruders. On making the discovery, they behaved in a most peaceable manner, and quietly entered the house in the company of Sir John Jackson the priest. Ugnell and Nicholas Hilton politely went up into "the highe chamber" at the invitation of the Standish party, "toke Lawrence Standish by the arm and peaceably conveyed him forth" after having first "lovingly" drunk together! In this case the decision of the Court is recorded, and it appears that Richard Standish lost his case, and the unfortunate babies were put under a suitable guardian.

One of the agricultural changes that was taking place in England at this time was the transition from corn-growing to sheep-grazing, and another was the substitution of individual cultivation of the land for the communal system. Under this system the villagers jointly owned a great plough drawn by four or eight oxen, by which the town-fields were ploughed over, after which they were distributed in strips to the various tenants in the manor. Probably both these influences were at work in the desire to enclose the waste or common land of the manor which we see in the following series of documents.

The first<sup>1</sup> of these purports to be Articles of Agreement between Richard Pilkington of Rivington and the Charterers and inhabitants of the same concerning the commons in Rivington, and the articles are as follows:—

“First. That Richard Pilkington of Rovington and his Ancestors hath been Lords of the waste and commons of Rovington and also hath herbage or els a yearly rent therefor of all the inhabitants of the said Towne and allsoe hath had all mannor of mines upon the same and hereby it is agreed that the said Richard improve thirteen acres of land parcell of the said waste in steade of his herbage or yearlye rent and the same to occupie at his pleasure.

“Item. Whereas James Shawe hath certaine beaste gates upon the said Common it is now agreed between the said Richard and James that he will inclose and take in three acres of land parcell of the said waste in recompence of his herbage.

“Item. Whereas George Lathom hath likewise had certaine herbage of nine (?) beaste gates upon the said Common and it is agreed between the said Richard and George that hee the said George shall inclose and take 4 acres of the said Comon.

“Item. The said Richard Pilkington and his heirs is agreed never more to improve any of the waste but the 13 acres allotted in recompense of his said herbage aforesaid.

“Item. It is agreed by and between the said Richard Pilkington and all the said Charterers and inhabitants that there shall be inclosed and taken in thirty<sup>2</sup> acres of land parcell of the said waste to the use of a Priest at Rovington

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1989, *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> Query an error for *three* acres.

Chappell for evermore for performance of which all the said parties are hereunto agreed. 28th year of Henry the VIIIth (1536-7)."

This apparently innocent document seems to have been the cause of much heartburning and bitterness in Rivington. A few years later one of the tenants, James Syme by name, broke down the enclosure and did damage to the extent of £20.<sup>1</sup> In spite of the self-denying clause by which Richard Pilkington bound himself and his descendants never to ask for any more, the taste for more enclosed land was too strong, and his son George took a much larger slice out of the common stock. Though it leads us a little out of our way chronologically, it is perhaps as well to complete the story of the inclosure of Rivington Common, and print two further documents bearing on the question.

Of these, the first<sup>2</sup> is a petition from the tenants of the manor, to George Pilkington, undated, but probably about 1595. In this, as will be seen, they urge that in order to defend themselves from the unwarranted intrusion of the cattle of the tenants of George Lathom, they wish to have the Common parcelled out amongst themselves, so that they can till it or make enclosed pastures, as may suit them best, and so be able to exclude the cattle of the new "cottingers."

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 2045.

<sup>2</sup> Rivington Muniments, No. 17. In Orders and Decrees, Duchy of Lanc., vol. xxi., f. 680, at the Record Office is an order, under date 23rd Nov. 1596, relating to this matter. In this George Latham is apportioned 38 acres, 12 of which are to be next to his "auncient enclosed lands in bredth as farre as the said auncient lands doe extend," and "16 acres adjoyninge to Hawrederon Diche and Helmslawsyde," and 10 acres "upon the Highe Moore beyond the Turfe Mosses," and that George Lathom's tenants living in the houses of Richard Syme, John Syme, and Christopher Benson should have "sufficient Turbarie." This decision, however, was only to hold good during the lifetime of George Lathom.

In the second<sup>1</sup> we see some of the results of this policy after it has been put into force. The "Depositions," also undated, but probably for the year 1613, are only a fragment, but we can gather from these that the enclosures begged for in the petition have taken place, and that Mr. Lathom and his tenants, naturally aggrieved, have taken the law into their own hands and pulled down some of the enclosures, and so a suit of the usual order has resulted.

The text of the two documents is as follows, the first being given in full, while the second, on account of its legal verbosity, has been epitomised:—

"May yt please yr Honours to understand that wee the poore inhabitantes of the towne of Ryvington whose names are here underwritten being requested to certifie unto the Honourable Court of the Duchie our willingnes in the inclosure of our wast and Comon of Ryvington accordinge to an Agreemente mad betwixt Mr. Pilkington and George Lathom. Soe yt is if yt may please your Honours that the said George Lathome hath erected and bulded uppon his several land theare an unreasonable number of Cottages which cottingers dothe daylie wronge us with surchardginge the said Comon with theyre Cattell whoe in Right ought not to have any comon pasture at all. Therefore for that the said Mr. Pilkington hath offered unto us the said inhabitants suche reasonable porcons to be in severaltie which when yt is brought into Manurage or tillage will tend greatlie to our good and be unto us a full satisfacon. In consideration whereof wee freelie give our assentes and Consentes and humblie pray the said

<sup>1</sup> Rivington Muniments, No. 19.



Agreemente may take effect accordingle. Soe we humblie take our leave, besechinge God to preserve your Honours in healthe and prosperitie Longe to endure.

Richard Ainsworthe,	George Brownlowe,
Hughe Whitle,	Robert Gyll,
Hughe Ballough,	John Orrell,
James Jepson,	George Bolloughe,
James Bolloughe,	George Worsley,
Gilles Ward,	Olliver Pilkington,
John Hodgkinson,	Willm Bullough,
Willm Browene,	Thomas Worstley,
Willm Heaughton,	Adam Digbie,
Robt. Barnes,	Richard Brownlowe."
Niclas Whittell,	

The second document is as follows :—

" Deposicons of witnesses produced on the party and behalf of Robert Lever and Thomas Breers, complaintants against Thomas Lathom gent. Defendant taken at Bolton afforesaid by vertue of the Commission afforesaid Before John Bradshaw and Henry Breers, two commissioners named, the xxvith daie of March in the yere aforesaid."

James Pilkington of Rivington, gent., aged forty-six, deposes that he remembers articles of agreement relating to the inclosure of wastes and commons in Rivington, made between Deponent's father, Robert Pilkington, Esq., deceased, and George Lathom, gent., deceased, father of Defendant, and that thirty-eight acres of the waste were allotted to the said Lathom. That other charterers in Rivington had waste assigned to them. That on the death of Defendant's father, Defendant



threatened to pull down all the enclosures on Rivington Common, whereupon the said Robert Pilkington, having notice of these speeches, asked the said Defendant not to pull down all the enclosures, but "that he would in peacably manner pull downe one or towe upon which the tytle might as well be tryed." That Deponent was present when Defendant leased two acres of the said inclosures to Alexander Waddington.

James Sim, son of Anthony Sim, of Rivington, husbandman, aged thirty-four years, deposes that he is tenant to the Defendant of five acres, part of the twenty-three acres of common and waste of Rivington allotted to said Defendant.

Alexander Waddington, of the Streat, gent., aged seventy-four, deposes he has taken to lease eleven acres of the Common and wastes of Rivington lyeinge near Helmeshawes syde from Mr. Lathom the defendant.

Roger Finche, of Rivington, husbandman, aged thirty-four years, deposes that he is a tenant to Thomas Lathom for ten acres of the Commons and wastes of Rivington.

It will be noticed that the affair arose under the rule of Mr. Pilkington, but is carried on by Mr. Lever and Mr. Breres. It is this fact which enables us to fix the date of the trouble. The "Mr. Pilkington" is evidently George Pilkington, father of Robert Pilkington, the last of his family to be Lord of the Manor of Rivington, who, according to Colonel Pilkington, seems to have become involved in difficulties mainly as the result of protracted litigation. As we shall see presently, Robert Pilkington during his lifetime borrowed considerable sums of money on the security of his land, and after his

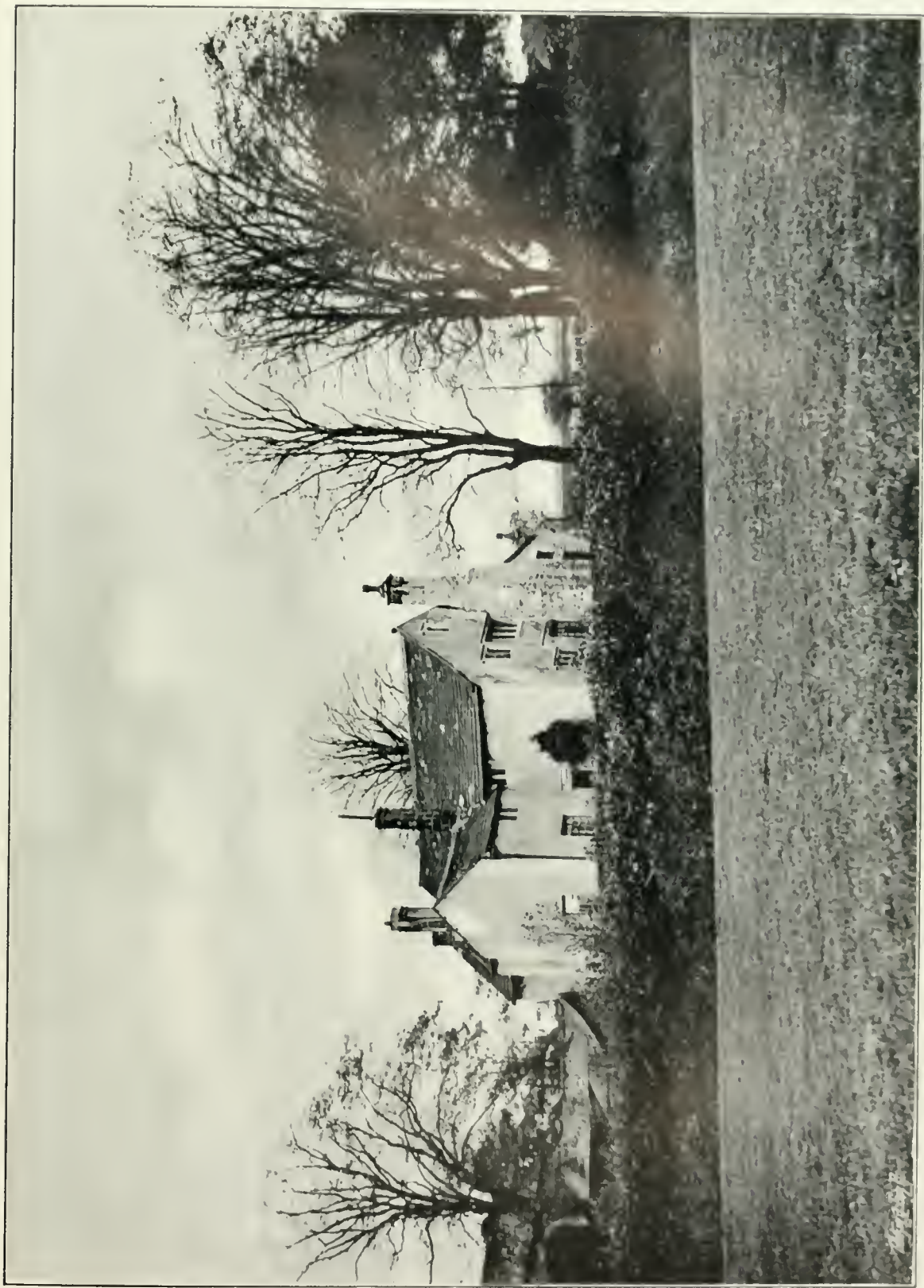
death his executors conveyed the Rivington estates to the mortgagees.

The signatures to the petition are interesting as giving us an early list of the important inhabitants of the township. It is curious to notice how these names have lasted down to the present day. On the Ordnance Survey we still find Ainsworth's, Jepson's, Ward's, Gill's, and Simm's farms, besides Pilkington's, Latham's, and Breer's. Mr. Waddington, "of the Streat," no doubt occupied land on the borders of Anderton and Rivington still marked by the names Street and Street Wood. We know from other documents<sup>1</sup> that Mr. Waddington held this land, in all about a hundred acres, on a very ancient tenure, possibly as representing the heirs of one of the junior branches of the family of Rivington, of Rivington, and paid for it annually "one barbed arrow," a rent which sends one's thoughts back to a very remote age.

The upshot of the whole matter was that an order was made in the Duchy Court under date 11th Feb. 1613(-4), by which Mr. Lever and Mr. Breres were adjudged to have the sole right to what was left of the Common of Rivington, while Mr. Lathom, who—it may be mentioned incidentally—claimed a quarter of the Manor, was obliged to be content with an allotment of fifty acres, twenty-four acres adjoining his ancient enclosed lands, sixteen acres at Hordern Ditch and Helmslawside, and ten acres on the High Moor.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Record Society of Lanc. and Chesh., vol. xvii. p. 339.

<sup>2</sup> By an agreement dated 21st Sept. 1605, between Robert Pilkington, and Thomas Latham, and Robert Shaw (then a minor for whom Peter Shaw, clerk, acted), it was agreed that Latham should have these fifty acres as finally decreed by the Court, and that Shaw should have thirty-seven acres of Common and ten acres of turbary. Willow Transcript, No. 32, *penes* Lieut.-Colonel John Pilkington.



NEW HALL FARM (FROM THE WEST)





To return to Richard Pilkington. He is perhaps best known as the reputed founder of Rivington Church,<sup>1</sup> but, as will be seen in the chapter on the history of the Church, though a great benefactor, he cannot lay claim to the distinction of having been its founder. There was probably a building which was occasionally served by a priest, at a much earlier date, but Richard Pilkington appears to have rebuilt the Church and to have helped to improve the incumbent's stipend so as to secure his permanent residence in the village. He seems to have been busy on the work in 1542, as we find him in that year joining with Oliver Brooke, Ralph Whittle, and Hugh Whittle to buy "one certaine Bell lately belonginge unto the Church of Wigan of the weight of 1080 poundes," for which they gave £15, "from Sir<sup>2</sup> William Hindley, priest of Wigan, and John Pinnington of Ince."<sup>3</sup>

That Richard Pilkington considered he had some special claim to Rivington Church is shown by a grant which he made on August 1, 1544,<sup>4</sup> to his eldest son George, of the house called Newhall and the lands belonging to it, "except the Church and Churchyard and the water of the Milne and the Milne-hill." It is interesting to find Newhall farm known by its present name so long ago as 1544.

Apart from the rôle that Richard Pilkington played in the rebuilding and endowing of Rivington Church there is ample evidence that he took a deep interest in the religious move-

<sup>1</sup> The word Church has been used throughout the book to denote the Episcopal Chapel in order to avoid confusion with the Nonconformist Chapel

<sup>2</sup> The title "Sir" was usually employed at this time to denote a priest who was not a Master of Arts; *cf.* Shakspeare's "Sir Hugh Evans" in the "Merry Wives of Windsor."

<sup>3</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1970.

<sup>4</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1724.

ments of the time. This is clearly shown in the careers adopted by his sons. With the exception of George, his eldest son, who succeeded to the property, and Francis, of whom little is known, all his sons who reached man's estate entered the Church. The eldest of these, James, the munificent founder of Rivington Grammar School, became the first Protestant Bishop of Durham; Leonard rose to be Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Canon of Durham; John became Archdeacon of Durham, while Lawrence occupied the rectory of Kimblesworth.

Lancashire was one of the counties where the line of cleavage between the old and the new faith was very strongly marked, and during the latter part of the sixteenth century men must perforce range themselves either on the side of the Puritans or among the so-called "Popish Recusants." It is evident that Richard Pilkington had early thrown in his lot with the leaders of the new way, unless indeed it was the influence of Cambridge on the future Bishop of Durham that decided his views, and that he, being the strongest personality in the family, carried his relations with him.

Of Richard's numerous family—he certainly had seven sons and five daughters, if not more—several seem to have been settled in Rivington and the neighbourhood. There is an interesting lease<sup>1</sup> still extant, dated November 24, 1547, by which Elizabeth, widow of George Lathom, demises to Jane Pilkington, Richard's second daughter, a house "called the Heyforthe Howse at the Deane Head" for a rent of twenty-two shillings yearly. This is probably the house still known as "Latham's," near Butter Cross in the Dean Head Lane.

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1988.



There is also an Agreement<sup>1</sup> dated May 8, 1569, by which Giles Ward of Rivington undertakes to build a house "of one bay" for Leonard Pilkington and his sister Alice "to remaine and dwell in." Possibly this stood where the house marked "Ward's Farm" on the Ordnance Survey still stands.

When Leland the antiquary visited this district in 1535 he says:<sup>2</sup>—"Abowt this Mosse I began to sei a Hill or Hilles on the right Hond that still continued on the same hand as a mighty long bank until I came to Lancastre. One part of this Hille wher I saw it first is caullid Faierlokke. But comunely the People thereabout caullith it Rivenpike. One told me that abowte Lidiote Mosse under the Hille is a village called Riven or Riventon (standing on a water called Ander-tonford and Andreton, a gentleman having a place caullid Andreton, dwellithe thereby and Mr. Rivinton's howse by Rivinton; Anderton Water cummith into Duggles), and thereabout I marked myself that there was a Coppe in the Hille as a Bakke standing up above the Residue of the Hille."

Speaking of Rivington Pike recalls the fact that sixty years later than this the Pike was the scene of great preparations at the time of the Spanish Armada. Among the Lancashire Lieutenancy Papers, printed by the Chetham Society,<sup>3</sup> are full particulars of the cost which the Hundred of Salford had to pay for the "watchinge of the Beacon att Ryven Pike" from July 10 to September 30, 1588, "wch cometh to fourscore and two daies at the rate of xvjd the daye and night."

We are now approaching the time when the Pilkington star, so long in the ascendant in Rivington, began to decline.

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 2065.

<sup>2</sup> Leland, vol. v. p. 83.

<sup>3</sup> Chetham Society's Proceedings, vol. i. p. 207.

It is possible that the education by Richard Pilkington of such a large family at the universities and the provision of jointures for his daughters may have begun the embarrassments of the family, and that these were accentuated by the protracted litigation which Colonel Pilkington tells us took place during the lifetime of George Pilkington. Certain it is that when George's son Robert, the last Pilkington to be Lord of the Manor of Rivington, succeeded to the estates in 1597, he found them in a sadly impoverished condition. The documents relating to the sale of Rivington are very numerous and somewhat conflicting, but after a perusal of them one fact comes out clearly, that Robert Pilkington was in a chronic state of impecuniosity. He seems to have begun borrowing money almost as soon as he entered into possession of the property, since we find that in 1601<sup>1</sup> he was obliged to pledge Rivington to William Bispham, a citizen and grocer of London. He also got into difficulties with reference to certain moneys which he had collected in his official position in the Court of Wards and Liveries,<sup>2</sup> and generally his affairs seem to have been in desperate straits when he died in 1605. He left no children, and the next in succession to the property was his brother James.

After his death the settlement of his affairs dragged on for some years, until in 1611 Robert Lever of Darcy Lever and Thomas Breres of Preston jointly purchased the whole property, having first bought out the various claimants and mortgagees.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cayley's Schedule of Rivington Deeds.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Rivington Muniments. Among these documents is an interesting detailed survey of the Rivington property, which will be found printed in the Appendix, p. 158.

Robert Lever, who was himself descended from the Pilkingtons of Rivington,<sup>1</sup> was the representative of an ancient Lancashire family. He married Katherine, daughter of William Crompton of Worth, and dying on the 18th May, 1620,<sup>2</sup> his share of the Rivington property descended to his younger son Robert,<sup>3</sup> who settled in London, and became a successful merchant, and whose name is a household word in Bolton to this day by reason of his munificent gifts to the Grammar School of Bolton. Robert Lever never married, so at his death<sup>4</sup> the Rivington estates passed to his nephew, another Robert Lever of Darcy Lever, a son of his eldest brother James. This third Robert Lever had an only surviving daughter Jane, who married about the year 1648 John

<sup>1</sup> Sir William Dugdale states in his visitation of Lancashire in 1664 (*Chetham Soc.*, vol. lxxxv. p. 185), that Robert Lever's grandmother was Mary Pilkington. It is, however, not possible, as the Thomas Pilkington, father of Mary Pilkington, was born in 1410, while Robert Lever himself died in 1620. There must be at least one generation omitted.

<sup>2</sup> In his will dated 13th May 1620, he refers to lands in Heaton Faughfield, Strangeways, Manchester, Bolton, Heath Charnock, Walton le Dale, Monton in Eccles, and Rivington, which he distributes among his sons, James, Robert, Richard, John, and William. From his Post-Mortem Inquisition (*Rec. Soc.*, vol. xvi. p. 255) it appears that Robert Lever had already (30th Aug. 1617) given to Robert, his younger son, all his half of the manor of Rivington. Among his benefactions is one which exists until the present day. To quote the exact words of the will: "Also I give towards the wages of a preacher to be hired at Rivington yearly for ever forty shillings when there is a preacher there but when there is none for the space of three months together then none to be paid until a preacher be provided." The only other reference that concerns us at present is a mention of "the sheep I have at Rivington," which shows that he retained some interest in the property even after he had handed it over to his son.

<sup>3</sup> In 1631 he paid £10 as "Robert Lever of Rivington" to avoid the compulsory honour of knighthood. *Rec. Soc.*, vol. xii. p. 216.

<sup>4</sup> Robert Lever was buried at St. Lawrence Church, London, 28th May 1644. (*Owen's MSS.*, Manchester Free Library, vol. xxxix. p. 305.) His will is dated 16th March 1642 (n.s.), and proved at the Commissary Court of London in September 1644[?]. For an abstract of it see Appendix, p. 166.

Andrews of Little Lever, to whom the Rivington estates ultimately passed.

Robert Lever lived to be an old man, dying in 1688, aged eighty. His will, which he drew up in 1687, is rather a quaint document. He begins as follows :—

“Forasmuch as it is appointed for all men once to dye, and observing that many dye very suddenly<sup>1</sup> and not knowinge the day of my departure, I, Robert Lever of Darcy Lever, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following.”

He leaves all his lands, &c., in Rivington, Heath Charnock, and Walton le Dale to his daughter Jane Andrews, charging the property with an annual sum of £20 to be paid to his wife Frances Lever<sup>2</sup> “to be issuing out of my demesne of Rivington.” He confirms the legacy of 40 shillings which his grandfather Robert Lever left “towards the wages of a Preacher to be hired at Rivington yearly for ever.” He mentions his grandchildren, John Andrews, Robert Andrews, and Elizabeth Andrews, for all of whom he makes provision. His property was evidently extensive, as in addition to his Rivington estate he speaks of his lands in Bolton, Little Bolton, and

<sup>1</sup> It is curious to notice that in Oliver Heywood's Register is the entry “Mr. Robert Lever of Darcy Lever died suddenly, October 3rd, aged 80.” The entry in the Bolton Parish Register is as follows : “1688. Mr. Robert Lever of Bolton (buried) 2 October.” For a fuller abstract of his will, see Appendix, p. 177.

<sup>2</sup> The will of Frances Lever of Bolton, widow, was proved at Chester, 21st May, 1694. From this it appears that her maiden name was Herle, as she leaves money to her three brothers, Edward, Charles, and Henry Herle. These names make it nearly certain that she was a daughter of the Rev. Charles Herle, who died Rector of Winwick, in 1659, a famous Puritan divine. She also mentions her sisters Elizabeth Kenyon and Mary Greene, her sister-in-law Mrs. Loveday Herle, her brother-in-law Mr. John Greene, and her “cozens Mrs. Jane Hulton, Dorothy Leech, and Anne Bridg.” The entry relating to her burial, in the Bolton Parish Register, is as follows : “Mrs. Frances Lever of Bolton, widow (buried) 5 April, 1694.”



Darcy Lever. He leaves money to his brother James Lever and his nephew James Lever of London, and requests "Mr. John Lever our present Vicar [of Bolton] to preach my funeral sermon, and for his text to take the 2nd and 3rd verses of the 3rd Chapter of the 1st Epistle of St. John."

Though not a Nonconformist, Robert Lever evidently had sympathy with those who for the cause of religion suffered from the political and social disabilities of the time, as he leaves 40 shillings to Mrs. Parke, the aged widow of the nonconforming Vicar of Bolton, and a similar sum to "Mrs. Hewood of Ormskirke," the widow of the Rev. Nathaniel Heywood, the ejected minister of that Parish.

To turn to the history of the other moiety of the Manor of Rivington. Thomas Breres, who joined with Robert Lever in 1611 in the purchase of the Manor, seems to have lived at the Hall and enjoyed his share on the spot until his death in 1617,<sup>1</sup> when he was succeeded by his son, also called Thomas. Thomas the younger lived at the Hall until his death<sup>2</sup> in 1673, though for a portion of the time he must have shared the house with his brother John Breres as

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Breres' will is dated 21st March 1617 [n.s.], and he calls himself "of Bolton chapman." He mentions his moiety of the Manor of Rivington, &c., his wife Ellen, and his sons Thomas (under 24) and John, and his daughter Alice. He leaves 40s. yearly towards a Preacher for the Church of Rivington, and appoints his wife and his two brothers Henry and John Breeres his executors. In the Inventory is a list of all "the goods in the shopp and warehouse," valued at £382, os. 10d., and the "goods at Rivington," valued at £142, 13s. 8d. His total personalty amounted to £1254, 4s., and his will was proved 11th August 1617. Thomas Breres appears to have been related to the Levers, as a man of this name married at Bolton in 1593 an Anne Lever, and Thomas Lever of Bolton, whose will is dated 1617, appoints "cosin Thomas Breres" one of his executors.

<sup>2</sup> In 1642 Thomas Breeres and his sons Thomas and Edward were enrolled as foreign Burgesses at Preston as "of Rivington."

well as with a nephew of the same name. Both these Johns appear to have been in orders, as in their wills they both describe themselves as "clerke." John Breres the elder is probably identical with the John Breres who held the living of Padiham<sup>1</sup> from before 1639 until about 1657, when he seems to have moved to Heapey Chapel. If this is so it is possible that he was one of the ejected ministers in 1662. He subsequently conformed, however, for, as we shall see presently, he became Incumbent of Chorley a little later than this. John Breres, the younger, appears to have been Master of Rivington Grammar School from 1660 until his death.<sup>2</sup> In his will which he made in 1667 he mentions that he has mortgaged his interest in Rivington after the death of his uncle Thomas Breres to "William Pilkington of Wigan, gentleman, and James Pilkington of Heaton Roads, gentleman." He also mentions his wife Elizabeth, and his brother William Breres.

Thomas Breres, his uncle, survived him and died in 1673. In his will he desires to be buried in the "Parochall Chaple of Rivington among my friends." He speaks of his "capital messuage or mansion house called the Hall of Rivington and the demesne lands thereto belonging." None of his sons seem to have been living at the time of his death, though he had a daughter married to Thomas Cross of Rivington, yeoman, and two others married respectively to men of the names of Walkden and Livesay. From his Inventory we

<sup>1</sup> Chetham Soc., vol. xx. (n.s.) p. 8. Rec. Soc., vol. i. p. 164, vol. xxviii. p. 89 *et seq.*, and vol. xxxiv. pp. 201, 203. Lanc. Parish Reg. Soc., vol. xvi. p. 48.

<sup>2</sup> It seems probable that we must identify this schoolmaster with John Breres the younger, who died in the summer of 1667, and not with John Breres the elder as John Bradley appears as schoolmaster in 1669, a date which nearly agrees with the death of John Breres the younger.



gather that Rivington Hall at this time was not a very extensive building, unless he merely occupied a portion of it, as we only find mention of the following rooms: "the Parlor," "the Hall" (at the upper end of which there was some "ceiling," possibly the screens), "the Pantree," "the Kitchin," "the Buttery," "the Pudding [?] Chamber," and "the Master's Chamber." Thomas Breres died poor, his total personalty only amounting to £19, 3s. 8d., and he was succeeded by his brother the Rev. John Breres, who lived to a great age.

History is a blank so far as Rivington is concerned during the stirring period of the Civil War, but all the terrible incidents which took place at Bolton must have at least found their echo in the village. The fact that the Levers and the Breres sided with the Parliament no doubt accounts for the lack of records. One solitary mention has come down to us in the Royalist Composition papers,<sup>1</sup> where, in the course of some evidence relating to events which took place at the time of the capture of Bolton in May 1644, a witness states that she and two other women were engaged in driving cattle from Eccleston to Chorley, "with an intention of driving them to Rivington where a part of the soldiers of the Parliament party lay," when a body of Royalists swooped down and captured the cattle. Evidently Rivington was being held as a sort of outpost from Bolton, though it is not very clear what use such a post would be there unless it were to hold the old road to the north which used to run over the shoulder of Rivington Pike, and along which tradition says King James came into England.

Several lists of the inhabitants of Rivington will be found

<sup>1</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xxiv. p. 106.

in this book, but no such complete list exists for any period as that which is here given. It consists of the signatures to the Protestation which was sent up to the Parliament in February 1642 (n.s.). An account of this document will be found on p. 67 under the history of Rivington Church, so it is only necessary here to say that it was a sort of politico-religious test which was intended to discover any who might have leanings inimical to the Parliamentary party. The names of the inhabitants of Anglezargh have been included as they were ecclesiastically within the area of Rivington. The main interest of the document for our present purpose lies in the fact that it shows the trades and social status of the inhabitants at this time. Since all men over eighteen years of age were required to sign, and we have the assurance of the Incumbent who attests it that everybody in the parish did sign, we may consider that we have here an exceptionally full list of the inhabitants. For Rivington itself we get 82, or adding Mr. Dewhurst, 83 men; allowing to the 38 or 40 households 30 wives, 60 children under 18 years of age, and 10 female servants, we get a total population of 183, which we shall see agrees fairly well with the calculations on page 47.

23 daye of Februarie 1641[-2]

The names of such p'sons as have taken the Protestation sent downe by the honorable house of Cōmons in Rivington and Anlesarghe within the parishe of Boulton in le mares.

RIVINGTON	Roger Bromiley yeoman.
Thomas Breres <sup>1</sup> gent.	Thomas Bromiley } his Sonnes.
Thomas Breres junr.	William Bromiley }

<sup>1</sup> This list is printed from Mr. J. E. Bailey's copy now in the Chetham Library at Manchester, obligingly communicated by Mr. Kirk, the sub-librarian. There are

Thomas Liveslye his s'vnt.	William Barnes his Servant.
Roger Finche husbandman.	Christopher Woods husbandman.
John Finche } his Sonnes.	John Morres husbandman.
C'pher Finche }	Raphe Biles <sup>2</sup> husbandman.
John Brodhurst litterat.	Thurstan Bradley yeoman.
Gefferaye Pilkington husbandman.	John Charneley his servant.
James Pilkington his Sonne.	Henery Hodgkinson yeoman.
Thurstan Pew <sup>1</sup> Senr. yeoman.	Richard Hulyo <sup>r</sup> Hulyer.
Thurstan Pew <sup>1</sup> Junr. yeoman.	John Darbyshier Hulyor.
George Ainsworth Linen Webster.	Hughe Syme laborer.
Richard Jepson husbandman.	Robert Giles husbandman.
William Jepson } his Sonnes.	Abraham Giles }
Richard Jepson }	Isacke Giles } his Sonnes.
Francis Hamer husbandman.	James Anderson <sup>3</sup> husbandman.
James Pilkington his Inmate.	Peter Anderson <sup>3</sup> his Sonne.
Christopher Dickenson Miller.	James Worsley Linen Weaver.
Henery Hodgkinson husbandman.	Oliver Mather Weaver.
Thomas Ward husbandman.	William Smithe sclater.
Gyles Ward & } his Sonnes.	John Blumiley husbandman.
Henery Ainsworth }	Henery Turner husbandman.
Edward Rigbye husbandman.	Gilbert Lee Shoemaker.
Robert Ainsworth husbandman.	Thomas Lee his Sonne.
George Ainsworth husbandman.	Richard Horrobin Laborer.
William Darbyshier husbandman.	Oliver Syme Laborer.
Peter Jepson husbandman.	Roger Syme husbandman.
John Jepson his Brother.	Evan Worsley husbandman.
Alex <sup>r</sup> Longeworth his Servant.	John Worsley Linen Webster.
James Barnes husbandman.	James Syme Laborer.
William Nichollson husbandman.	Roger Hodgkinson Laborer.
Richard Gryme yeoman.	Richard Bullhaughe husbandman.
Thomas Prescott his servant.	William Makinson Laborer.
George Brouneloe husbandman.	Jeremy Cartwright Laborer.
John Brouneloe his Sonne.	Laurence Wadsworth Webster.
Richard Brouneloe husbandman.	Richard Brodhurst husbandman.

some evident errors in this list, and a few suggested corrections are here given. For example, these first two names appear as Bures, an obvious error for Breres.

<sup>1</sup> Query misreading for Parr?

<sup>2</sup> Query misreading for Giles or Gill?

<sup>3</sup> Query misreading for Anderton?

Richard Fishe & } husbandmen.  
 James Fishe }  
 James Isherwood husbandman.  
 William Anderson husbandman.  
 Thomas Nightgall husbandman.  
 Henery Hodgkinson Laborer.  
 William Blundell Laborer.  
 John Syme Laborer.  
 James Boothe Linen Webster.

## IN ANLESARGHE

Robert Shawe gent.  
 Thurstan Talyor husbandman.  
 James Talyor } husbandmen.  
 Robert Talyor }  
 Roger Anderton husbandman.  
 John Anderton } his Sonnes.  
 Peter Anderton }  
 Thomas Cleyton Husbandman.  
 Adame Schouletoster Taylor.  
 Richard Abbott husbandman.  
 Thomas Edwards husbandman.  
 John Croston husbandman.  
 Peter Hamson Millner.  
 Richard Waddington & } husband-  
 George Waddington } men.

George Shawe yeoman.  
 John Towneley laborer.  
 Thomas Brodhurst husbandman.  
 James Bullhaugh husbandman.  
 Peter Husborne his Servant.  
 George Brindle husbandman.  
 Robart Bullough.  
 Refusalles not any w<sup>thin</sup> our  
 division.  
 Recusants not any w<sup>thin</sup> our  
 division.

Robert Deurst<sup>1</sup> the minister.  
 Richard Kershawe gardian.  
 Roger Browne } constables.  
 John Bullough }

Wee the Minister Churchwarden  
 & Constables of Rivington &  
 Anlsarhe doe witnesse that all  
 w<sup>thin</sup> our division haith p'tested  
 w<sup>h</sup>out exception according to ye  
 order directed from Parliament.

Robert Dewhurst Clearke.  
 Roger Browne } Constables.  
 John Bullough }  
 Richard Kershaw Churchwarden.

That we may get some idea of the condition of Rivington a few years later it may be of interest to print the Hearth Tax returns for the village for the year 1663. These returns were made as the result of a tax imposed in the previous year by which every fire-stone or hearth in the country was liable to pay the sum of two shillings per annum. As every house in the land possessed at least one hearth, and none but the very poorest were exempt from the effect of the

<sup>1</sup> In Mr. Bailey's copy this name is entered as Richard Deurst, but this is evidently a copyist's error for Robert Dewhurst.

tax, it will be seen how complete such a return must be. We can therefore consider that the following document will show us a full list of the householders of Rivington, and from the number of hearths returned we may gather something as to their relative opulence and comfort. From a later return we find that the Hall possessed four chimneys, so that evidently the first two entries in the following list refer to Rivington Hall and show that John Breres was responsible for three-quarters of the establishment. The list gives us 38 households, so multiplying this by 5 we get an estimated population of 190 for the year 1663.

[RIV]INGTON <sup>1</sup>

A.D. 1663

Tho. Breares . . . . 1	Jas. Pilkington . . . . 1
Jo. Breares . . . . 3	Widowe Parr . . . . 1
Jo. Sim . . . . 3	Fra. Hamer . . . . 2
John Boulough . . . . 2	Wm. Jepson . . . . 2
Richard Sim . . . . 2	Tho. Crosse . . . . 2
Roger Finch . . . . 3	Tho. Anderton . . . . 2
Thurstan Bradley . . . . 1	Geo. Browne . . . . 1
Tho. Allance . . . . 1	Wm. Barnes . . . . 1
Ja. Brindle . . . . 1	Wm. Entwisle . . . . 1
Ja. Usherwood . . . . 1	Ric. Barnes . . . . 1
Isabel Broadhurst . . . . 1	Geo. Brownelowe . . . . 1
Widowe Nighall . . . . 1	Robte. Gill . . . . 1
Tho. Finch . . . . 1	Richd. Brownelowe . . . . 2
Hen. Hodgkinson . . . . 1	Ja. Abbott . . . . 1
Ann Finch . . . . 1	Jo. Blaine (?) . . . . 1
Robte Cocker . . . . 1	Katherin Gill . . . . 1
Wm. Anderton . . . . 1	"Shawe House" . . . . 1
Jo. Usherwood . . . . 1	Wm. Nickson . . . . 1
Evan Worsley . . . . 1	Widowe Browne . . . . 1
Thom. Whaley . . . . 3	
	54

<sup>1</sup> Subsidy Roll at the Public Record Office, 250, 15 Car. II.



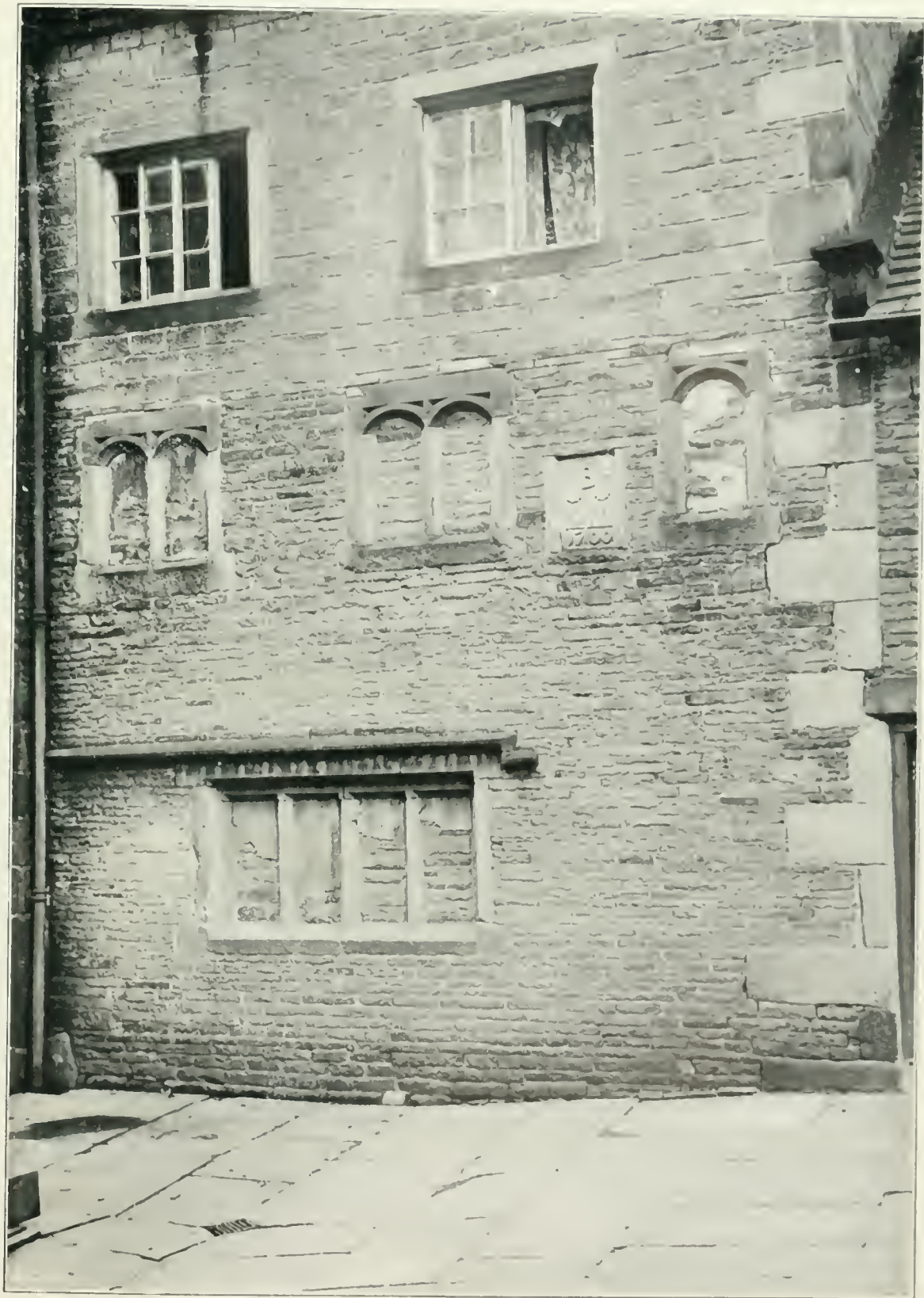
The Rev. John Breres continued to live at Rivington, though he evidently also had a house in Chorley, as we find him several times about the year 1675 described as "John Breres of Chorley, clerk." He died in July 1696,<sup>1</sup> and on the 25th November his will was proved at Chester. In this he describes himself as "John Breeres of Rivington, clarke, being well stricken in yeares." He refers to a debt of £20 for the payment of which he and his son William were engaged to "George Shaw (of Anglezargh at that time) but now of Heath Charnocke, Thomas Anderton of Rivington, Roger Finch, late of Rivington, and Jonathan Kershaw of Anglezargh." The names rather suggest that this money may have had to do with the recently formed Nonconformist cause at Rivington. He speaks of his grand-daughter Anne, the daughter of his late daughter Mary, and leaves the residue of his personal estate to his two daughters Ellen Reynolds and Alice Dickenson, whom he also names his executrices. Thomas Reynolds, possibly his son-in-law, is one of the witnesses of the will.

The value of his personalty amounted to £158, 5s. 8d., and in his Inventory references occur to "the chamber over the parlour, the chamber over the closet, the parlour, the hall, the kitchen, the flagged chamber, the room over the entry, the pantry, and 'the old man's chamber.'" He evidently had possessions at Sharples, since goods amounting in value to £2 are mentioned as being there, also a few odds and ends "At the Greate house in Rivington."

He was succeeded by his son William Breres, who, as

<sup>1</sup> In a recently discovered scrap of a Transcript of Rivington Register at the Episcopal Registry in Cheshire for the year 1696 occurs the following: "Mr. John Breeres of Rivington, clarke, bur. July 22."





COURTYARD OF THE OLD HALL.



early as 1694, had begun making alteration in the Hall building, since we find his initials with the date 1694 over the doorway in the courtyard at the back of the present house. A further addition must have been made a few years later, as on a stone facing south in the courtyard are the initials—



no doubt representing the names of William Breres and his wife Martha.<sup>1</sup> Over the stable door is also to be seen the inscription—



This also no doubt refers to William Breres and his wife,

<sup>1</sup> From the Bolton Parish Register of 25th Feb. 1696 [n.s.]: "Mr. William Breers married Martha Gill of Rivington."

while the letter I or J before the 13 stands for John, their son and heir-apparent.

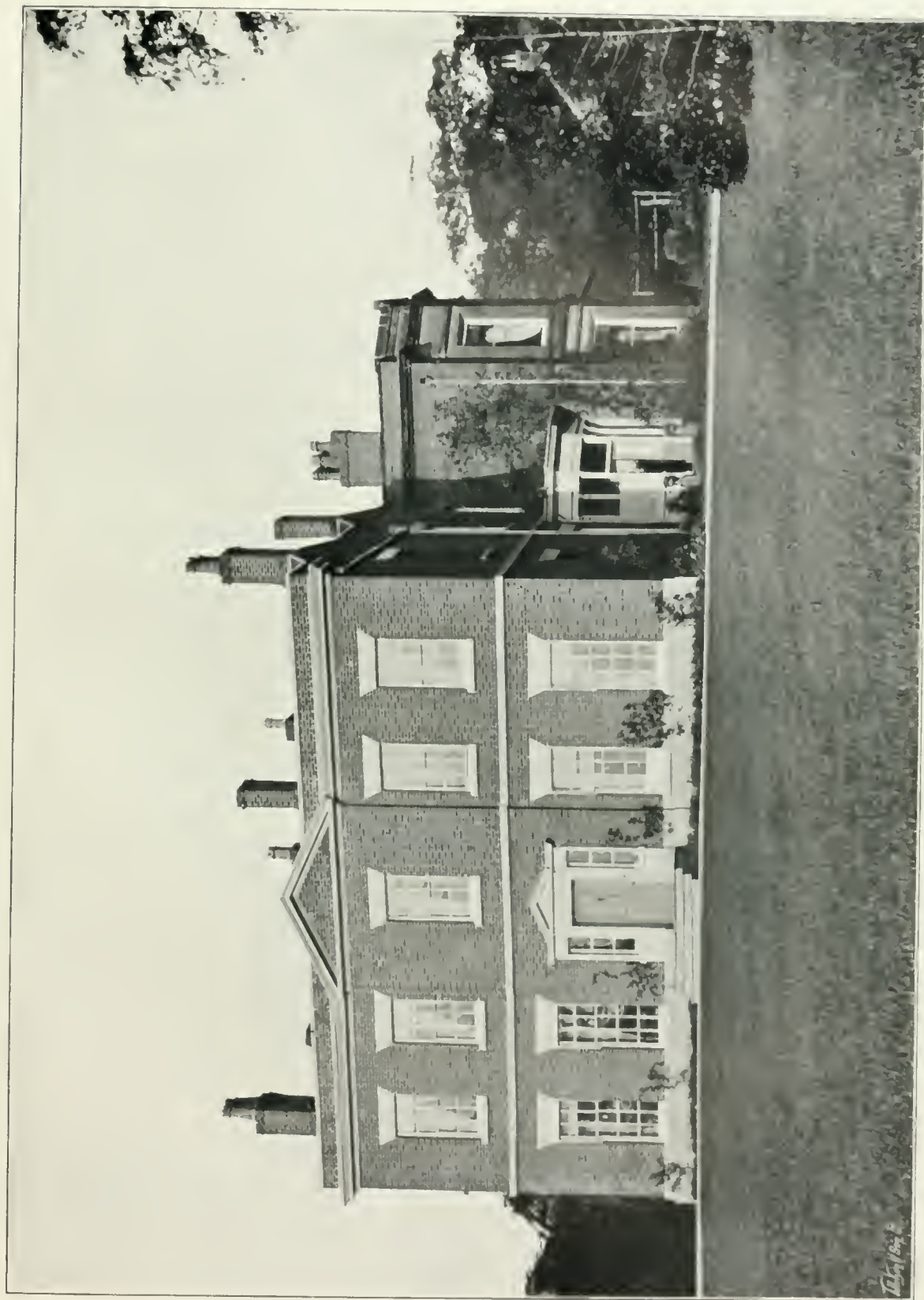
William Breres died in 1723, and was succeeded by his only son John, who, on the 30th September 1729, sold his share in the Manor, together with his share in the demesne and sundry tenements in the township, to John Andrews of Bolton-in-the-Moors, the owner of the other moiety, for the sum of £1747. William Breres' two sisters, Mary, wife of the Rev. Robert Harvey of Adlington, clerk, and Ellen Pierpoint of the same place, widow, join in the conveyance.

To turn now very briefly to the family of Andrews of Little Lever and Rivington. The John Andrews who acquired the Lever moiety of the Manor by marriage with Jane Lever about the year 1648<sup>1</sup> was the son of Nicholas Andrews of Little Lever and his wife Heath, daughter of Thomas Lever of Little Lever. "Honest Captain Andrews," as Newcome calls him in his Autobiography, had been an officer in the Parliamentary forces, and when the Presbyterian system was set up in Lancashire he was chosen as one of the ruling elders for the Bolton district. Oliver Heywood speaks several times in his Diary of visits he had paid to Little Lever Hall, where the Andrews lived at this time.

John Andrews died in 1679, and the property descended to his son and heir of the same name, who married at Bolton on July 6, 1682, Anne, daughter of Robert Mort of Wharton Hall in Little Hulton. They had several children, including two sons, John and Robert. John Andrews, the third in succession, was born in September 1684, and married Abigail, daughter of Richard Crooke of Abram. It was this John

<sup>1</sup> See p. 39.





THE OLD HALL (WEST FRONT.)





Andrews who, in 1729, as related on p. 50, acquired the Breres moiety of Rivington, and thus became sole Lord of the Manor. His initials, together with his wife's, can be seen



in the boldly carved door-plate on the stable at the Old Hall, together with the date 1732. He died without male issue in 1743, when Rivington descended to his daughter Abigail, who married Joseph Wilson of Bolton. Mr. Wilson died<sup>1</sup> without surviving issue, and the estates reverted to the line of Robert Andrews, the second son of John Andrews (the second) mentioned above. This Robert Andrews married at Bolton, December 30, 1712, Hannah, daughter of Joseph Crompton of Hackin, Co. Lancaster, and had among others a son, Joseph Andrews, born November 25, 1715, who married at Bolton on July 24, 1734, Hannah, daughter of Edward Kenyon of Great Bolton. It was to their son Robert that the property came on the death of Mr. Wilson without issue in 1765.

This Robert Andrews, shortly after coming into possession of the estates, pulled down the Old Hall of Rivington, which is said to have been a quadrangular building of timber and plaster-work, probably the actual structure referred to on p. 21,

<sup>1</sup> Buried at Bolton, July 30, 1765.

as being built or added to in 1478. In its place he put the front portion of the present house, a building not conspicuous for any special feature except for the pleasing colour of its red brick, which is said to have been burned on the spot. The date on the spout-heads seen in the tail-piece at the end of this chapter is no doubt that of the rebuilding of the Hall.

Robert Andrews married twice. By his wife, Sarah, daughter of Thomas Cockshott of Marlow, Co. York, he had two sons and one daughter, and, dying in 1793, the property descended to his eldest son, Robert, who, after being Deputy-Lieutenant for Lancashire, died unmarried in 1858, when he was succeeded by his brother John, who died without issue in 1865. The sister of the two last mentioned owners, Hannah Maria Andrews, married Robert Fletcher of Liverpool, and their daughter Lucy married in 1834 Woodhouse Crompton, the father of John William Crompton, now of Rivington Hall.

Mr. Crompton in 1900 disposed of his interest in the Manor and all his lands in the township to William Hesketh Lever, of Thornton Manor, Cheshire, and Roynton Cottage, Rivington, who is now (1904) Lord of the Manor.



## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY OF RIVINGTON CHURCH

THE origin of the Church of Rivington is lost in the dim past. It is not only possible, but quite probable that a church existed here at a very early date, but the first distinct reference that the writer has so far found is in the year 1476. In a document quoted on p. 7, undated, but of about the year 1280, mention is made of three acres of "terra ecclesiastica" in Rivington, which certainly seems to suggest that a church was in existence at that date. If this church land belonged to the Mother Church of Bolton we should expect to find some other record among the documents relating to Bolton, but no such reference exists; it therefore seems natural to conclude that the church that held the land was Rivington Church. It can only have been a small semi-private chapel, possibly not much more than a chapel attached to the Manor House, and no doubt from time to time in the Middle Ages it fell into disrepair, and may often have lacked a regular priest.

The earliest distinct reference is in one of the Rivington Charters,<sup>1</sup> dated 6th Sept. 1476, in which "Dame Margaret," widow of Ralph Pilkington, and her son Robert Pilkington, join in granting to certain trustees "one tenement, called

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1726.

The Fernylee, and one tenement called Chappell Croft,<sup>1</sup> in Rivington," &c. Again, in Ralph Pilkington's post mortem Inquisition<sup>2</sup> taken on the 26th January 1478, the jurors say that the deceased Ralph held amongst other property "a tenement in Rivington called Chapell croft."

The earliest definite statement of the origin and history of Rivington Church is contained in an interesting petition<sup>3</sup> made in 1628 to Bishop Bridgeman of Chester by Richard Sim, Churchwarden of Rivington, and other inhabitants of the Chapelry. From this document, said to be preserved at Chester and enrolled in a manuscript volume known as Bishop Bridgeman's Ledger,<sup>4</sup> it appears that at a general meeting of the inhabitants in the Church of Rivington in that year for the purpose of imposing a rate upon the said inhabitants for providing books, and for the reparation of the decays of the church, Thomas Breers, gent., in his own right, and in the name of Robert Leaver of London, gent., made a claim to the inheritance of the said church and churchyard, as their lay fee, and in proof produced a copy of an inquisition of office found after the death of Richard Pilkington, wherein was mentioned that the said Pilkington died seized of one messuage and tenement in Rivington, and also of a chapel and chapelyard situate within the said messuage, and alleged that these were conveyed, amongst other lands, to Thomas Breers deceased, father of the said Thomas, and to

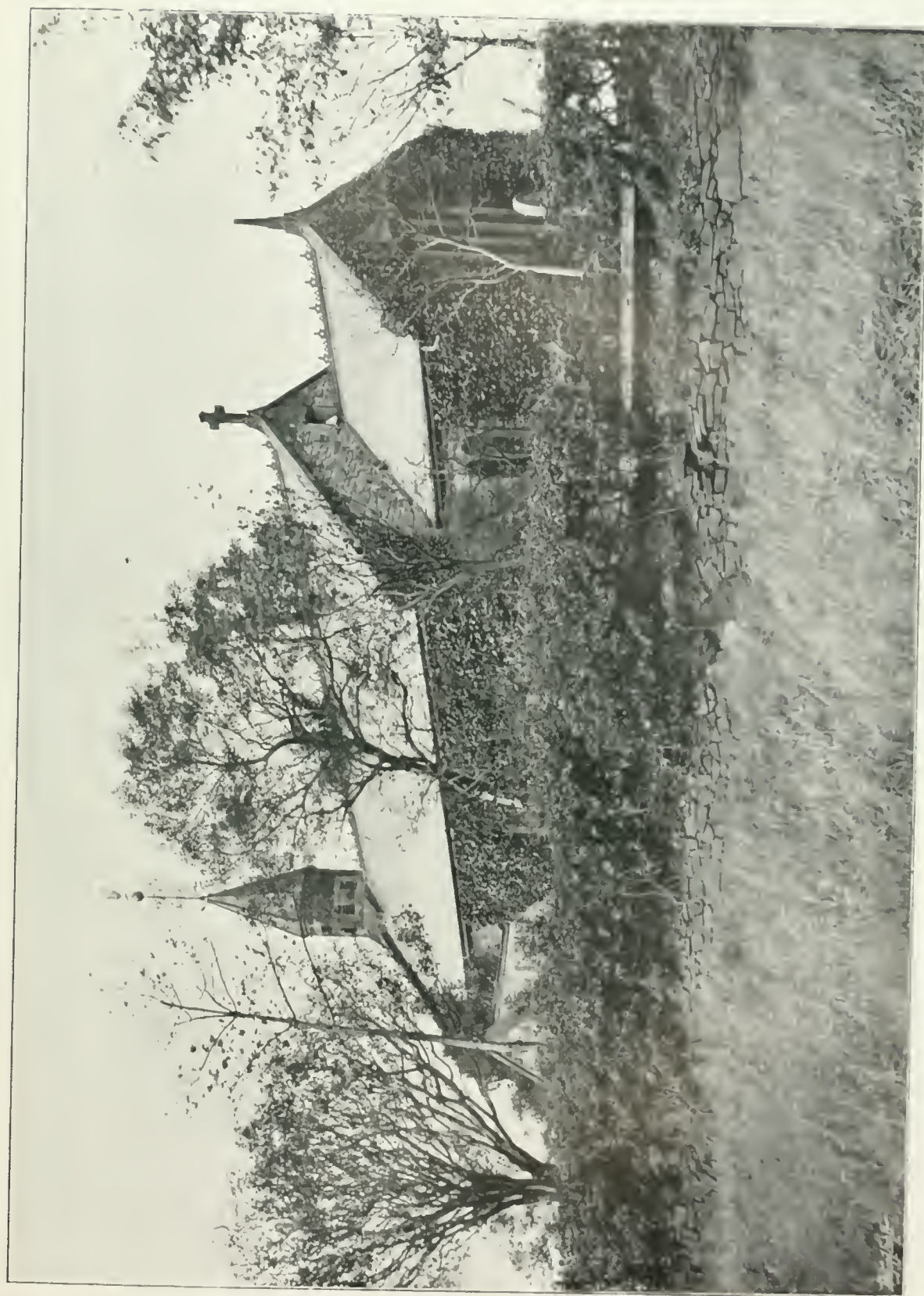
<sup>1</sup> There is other evidence among the Rivington Charters that this "Chappell Croft" is identical with the piece of land on part of which the present Church stands.

<sup>2</sup> Chetham Soc., vol. xcix. p. 105.

<sup>3</sup> Chetham Soc., vol. lx. p. 260.

<sup>4</sup> The writer has, however, made careful search for the original in Bishop Bridgeman's Ledger, but so far without success.





RIVINGTON CHURCH (VIEW FROM THE SOUTH-EAST).



Robert Leaver deceased, father of the aforesaid Robert, and their heirs, by the executors of Robert Pilkington deceased, and that the said Thomas Breers then living was son and heir to the said Thomas deceased.

The petitioners in answer to this statement declared that long before the inquisition of office, "or any such were," the inhabitants of Rivington, Anglezarke, Hemshawes and Foulds in the parish of Bolton-le-Moors, in the County of Lancaster, upon their own costs, built and erected the said chapel "upon a little toft and quillit of land" in Rivington, there to celebrate divine service, sacrament and sacramentals, which was performed accordingly "for manie yeres of antiquitie." And afterwards the said Richard Pilkington made great labour and took great pains unto Doctor Bird, the Lord Bishop of Chester, and desired him to dedicate the same Chapel and Chapelyard to God and his holy and divine service, and the same was consecrated the xi<sup>th</sup> of October 1541 by the said Lord Bishop, who received there five pounds for his fees, as appeared amongst other receivings and accompts of the said Church or Chapel, in a fair ancient hand-writing, in an ancient Church Book, at that time remaining in the said Chapel. And they also showed that Queen Elizabeth by grant under the great seal, dated Westminster, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> of her reign [1566], did amongst other things, at the petition of James Pilkington, then Bishop of Durham, grant to the governors of the free Grammar School, "of the foundation of the said Queen Elizabeth, in Rivington," and to their successors, that from time to time and ever afterwards there should be in the said Chapel sacraments and sacramentals celebrated, and other divine services used, and also baptizing of infants, celebration of matrimony, bury-



ing and inhumation of the dead within the said Chapel or Chapelyard, and all other rites, celebrations, prayers, and services in the said Chapel for ever, there to be used in all and every construction and purpose as is, are, or ought to be used in the said parish Church of Bolton-in-the-Moors. And that ever afterwards the people and inhabitants within Rivington, Anglezark, Helmshaw, and Foulds on their own proper costs should find from time to time one discreet, learned, and fit Chaplain or Minister to serve in the said Chapel and make his residence there, and to perform all divine offices in the said Chapel and all other things there which may or ought to belong to the office of Rector of the said parish Church of Bolton, or any other Rector or Curate or parish Church of England. And the said inhabitants shall not be compelled or bound to repair to the parish Church of Bolton or to any other Church or Chapel to hear divine service or to receive the sacraments, to bury their dead, or to celebrate matrimony, but only to the Chapel of Rivington. And as touching the conveyance of the said Chapel and Chapelyard which Breers and Leaver claimed from the executors of Robert Pilkington, the petitioners said that Robert Pilkington did not devise the same to his executors and their heirs, and that therefore the said conveyance was not good in law. And also that the said Robert Pilkington by his last will committed his body to the earth to be buried at the Church of Rivington amongst his ancestors, not meaning that Church to be his Church or Chapel. And the petitioners also affirmed and offered to depose and prove, that time beyond the memory of man they and their ancestors had quietly enjoyed the said Church or Chapel, and Chapelyard, with all the freedoms, privileges, and

immunities thereof, and had continually repaired, maintained, and upholden the same, and had also as then kept and provided a sufficient Minister and Preacher at the same. Therefore they humbly besought the Bishop of Chester to continue the privileges to them, their heirs and successors for ever.

Then follows a confirmation by John, Bishop of Chester, dated November 15, 1628, of all the rights, &c., of the inhabitants of Rivington, &c., in the said Chapel or Chapelyard.

Such was the story of the origin of the Church as collected and recorded in 1628, and it all tends to support the contention that the foundation existed at an earlier date than that usually claimed for it—viz., the middle of the sixteenth century. If it was only after "many years of antiquitie" that Richard Pilkington obtained special episcopal recognition for the Church in 1541, we may well believe that the foundation must date many years, if not some centuries, earlier than this.

After the reference in 1476 just alluded to, there is no distinct mention until 1536, when, in the first partition of the commons of Rivington,<sup>1</sup> special provision is made for an allotment of the waste to be made "to the use of a Priest at Rivington Chappell for evermore." Let it be noted that in this document Rivington Church is recognised as an existing institution; there is no suggestion that at this date it is a new foundation: it is merely a question of strengthening what already exists.<sup>2</sup>

The fact seems to be that a Chapel of sorts had existed for a long time prior to the sixteenth century, but that between

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1989.

<sup>2</sup> It may also be noted that in 1521 the document quoted on p. 24 is witnessed by "Sir John Waryng, priest," who was in all probability the officiating priest at the Chapel.



1535 and 1540, Richard Pilkington, stirred, no doubt, by the ferment in the religious world around him, made a special effort to restore the building and provide a fixed endowment. He seems in the main to have accomplished his object, as is shown by its dedication in 1541, recounted by Richard Sim. In the following year we find Richard Pilkington engaging<sup>1</sup> to buy a large bell from the Church of Wigan. Richard Pilkington also refers to the "Church and Churchyard" in an agreement which he made with his son George in 1544.<sup>2</sup>

In a list<sup>3</sup> of the clergy for the Archdeaconry of Chester drawn up in 1541-42, immediately after the founding of the See of Chester, the names of five clergy appear under Bolton. The first two names evidently refer to Bolton Parish Church—viz., the Rev. James Bolton and the Rev. Roger Filden; the third name, the Rev. John Hilton, is entered as being presented by John Bradshaw, and therefore probably he officiated at Bradshaw Chapel; while the fourth, the Rev. William Bradley, is provided for by Richard Pilkington, and consequently represents the name of the first Incumbent of Rivington of whom we can be certain. The last on the list is the Rev. Arthur Pilkington, presented by Ralph Orell, who seems to have been the Incumbent of Turton Chapel.

In a list of clergy<sup>4</sup> for Bolton Parish for the year 1548, by a similar process of reasoning, we arrive at the conclusion that the Incumbent of Rivington was the Rev. William Broadhurst (spelled Bradsher), who also appears in the 1554 list, spelled William Brodhurst.

Throughout the troublous period of the reigns of Edward VI.

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1970.

<sup>2</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1724.

<sup>3</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xxxiii. p. 13.

<sup>4</sup> MS. Bishop's Registry, Chester.

and Queen Mary, we know little of the history of the Church at Rivington. <sup>1</sup> Towards the end of the reign of the young King, the pecuniary difficulties of the Government led it to sweep up what remained of Church property after the heavy spoliations of former years. In 1552 Commissions were issued, ordering inventories to be taken of all goods, plate, jewels, and ornaments belonging to any churches, chapels, fraternities, or guilds, with the names of persons who had been known to have acquired any of the property since the date of former inventories. On the 30th September the Commissioners visited Rivington, and received from Ralph Whittle and John Green, the chapel-wardens, the following list of goods in their possession :—

A vestymēt embrodered with a sute belonging there to.

Item. Another vestiment with all thynges to hit.

Item. An olde Cope.

Item. Three aulter Clothes and a Coverlett for the aulter and an olde shete before the aulter.

Item. Two surplis and three Towells.

Item. Two corporas with the Cases.<sup>2</sup>

Item. A Sensor and a Crismatorie off brasse.<sup>3</sup>

Item. A Canope <sup>4</sup> and two pixes off brasse.<sup>5</sup>

Item. A littyll Crosse with a paynted baner off lynnen clothe.

<sup>1</sup> Chetham Soc., vol. cvii. p. 37.

<sup>2</sup> A corporas or corporal was the cloth of fine white linen on which the elements were consecrated. It was about a foot square, and was sometimes sewn into the middle of a large piece of silk or other cloth. When not in use these cloths were put in a kind of portfolio called a "case," made of silk, and embroidered.

<sup>3</sup> The Chrismatory was a box, containing the vessels (cruets) which held the consecrated oils.

<sup>4</sup> A canopy was a hood suspended over the altar, under which was the vessel containing the Host.

<sup>5</sup> The pyx was the box or cup holding the consecrated wafer.

Item. Two Cruettes,<sup>1</sup> one masse boke, and one Englishe Byble and a Manuell.

Item. Two Candilstickes off wod and a lectern.

Item. Three bells, two Sacring bells, and three other littyll bells to goo unto the Parishe with.

Item. Two paxe brydes.<sup>2</sup>

No doubt, in addition to these goods which were sold for the benefit of the King and realised, so we learn,<sup>3</sup> 3s. 1d., there would be a chalice and paten and one or two of the bare necessities which would be left for the use of the Parish. One item we hear of again, namely, the bell. It appears that out of the bells enumerated in the foregoing list one was kept back by the chapel-wardens for the use of the Parish, and so the Treasury was short to the extent of the value of this bell. A commission was sent down to inquire, and in April 1554 Ralph Whittle and John Green, "chyrchereves of the Chapell of Rivington," depose "That there ys one belle yett remayninge at the said Chapell specified in the saide sodule which was seased to th' use of our late Kynge of famous memorye Kynge Edwarde the VIth by auctorytie of the said former comyssion."

From a list accompanying these documents, it seems that the bell weighed three hundred-weight at six score pounds to the hundred-weight, and was worth 45s.

One cannot help wondering what took place at Rivington during the religious reaction that set in during the reign of

<sup>1</sup> Cruets were small vessels used for the water, wine, and consecrated oils.

<sup>2</sup> Pax or pax-board, here corrupted into pax-bryde, was a small, oval-shaped piece of wood or metal with a handle. Upon it was engraved generally some Christian symbol. This was the object which the priest kissed when in High Mass he reached the words *Pax Domini sit semper vobiscum*, and then presented it to the congregation.

<sup>3</sup> Chetham Soc., vol. lx. p. 276. This sum, however, could not include the value of the bells.

Queen Mary. A year later than the commission just mentioned, George Marsh, from the neighbouring parish of Deane, was arrested on the charge of heresy, and after a prolonged trial, or rather series of trials, was burnt at the stake outside Chester. George Marsh admitted in court that he had frequently preached in the neighbourhood of Deane, and mentioned the parish of Bolton as the scene of some of his labours, so it is quite possible he may have preached at Rivington, and stayed at Rivington Hall. This is especially likely, as he must have been a contemporary at Cambridge of James Pilkington, afterwards Bishop of Durham. Though Pilkington took his degree before Marsh came up, he was a fellow of St. John's at the time Marsh entered the University, and was just then engaged in his famous controversy on Transubstantiation. We can readily understand what consternation Marsh's fate must have spread at Rivington, with the junior members of the family at all events, so deeply committed to the side of heresy. At the time, however, James Pilkington was safe from harm, for he had fled to the Continent at the first signs of danger, but it must have been an anxious time for those who stayed at home and occupied the Hall at Rivington.

This period of anxiety was ended by the death of Queen Mary, and England breathed freely once more. When James Pilkington saw that all danger was over, and that Elizabeth was prepared to side with the Reformers, he returned to his native country, and received high honour and preferment at Cambridge, and shortly afterwards was raised to the See of Durham.

In the list of clergy for 1563 (MS. *Bishop's Registry*) the entry "Dñs Henricus Croston cur. de Rivington" occurs

under Bolton Parish. The name is, however, struck through, which probably means that he had either resigned or died about this time. Nothing more is known of this Incumbent.

Not long after his advancement, Bishop Pilkington began to devise means of helping his native village, and in 1566 founded the Free Grammar School of Rivington. An account of this will be found on p. 112, and the fact is only mentioned here, as the Charter which he obtained from Queen Elizabeth for the founding of this school, included, as related by Richard Sim in 1628, a very curious and interesting series of clauses relating to the Church of Rivington. This portion of the document<sup>1</sup> begins by rehearsing that forasmuch as the parish of Bolton is a very large and great parish, and that not only Rivington, but also Anglezargh, Helmsshaw, and Folds, are more than six miles distant from the parish Church, and that, as the population of these four places amounts to "five hundred at least," and as they have built long ago "at their own great costs and charges" a Chapel at Rivington, so that they need not "carry their dead or children to be buried and baptized at the parish Church of Bolton or at any other times to wander in order to solemnise marriages or to receive our Lord's Supper," therefore Her Majesty grants that there shall be "sacraments and sacramentals celebrated, and other divine service used" within Rivington Chapel, and all other "rites, celebrations, prayers, and services" as "may be done and executed within the aforesaid Parish Church of Bolton, &c." Also that right of burial in the Chapel-yard shall belong to all inhabitants of the four villages. The Queen is further graciously pleased to grant that the inhabitants of the said four villages shall have the privilege of finding, at their

<sup>1</sup> Tebay's Statutes of Rivington School, p. 41.



"own proper costs and charges," one "discreet, learned, and meet Chaplain or Minister to serve within the said Chapel," though she is careful to provide that nothing in this grant "shall in any wise extend to burden Us or Our heirs or successors with maintaining and finding any Chaplain or Minister within the aforesaid Chapel." Further provision is made that though the people of the four villages are to support their Minister they are still to pay their tithes and oblations to the mother Church of Bolton as hitherto. Though it is not expressly stated, still the intention is evident, and so it comes to pass that Rivington is one of the few<sup>1</sup> places in England where the parishioners have the privilege of electing their own spiritual adviser.

Throughout the rest of the reign of Queen Elizabeth there is little to be told about the Church. No doubt the controversies which agitated the church at large found their echo in this quiet village, but no record now remains.

A careful search through the manuscripts at the Bishop's Registry at Chester reveals nothing.<sup>2</sup> In fact, so altogether blank are the records that it almost looks as if the Bishop and Archdeacon had ignored the Chapelry in their various visitations. It is not until the visitation of the year 1598 that even a mention of Rivington occurs, and then it is only to record that Oliver Barnes of Rivington was guilty of "taking awaie

<sup>1</sup> According to Hampson in his "History of Rivington" (p. 110), quoting the *Manchester Guardian*, there are eleven places in England and Wales where this privilege exists. The last Incumbent was duly elected, but some difficulties arose, and it was considered better that in future the power should not be exercised and the choice left to the Bishop. The present Incumbent was thus chosen.

<sup>2</sup> According to Hampson (p. 109), Piccope gives Thomas Hindley as the Incumbent of Rivington on the 9th May 1597. A Thomas Hindley witnesses several Rivington wills in 1607 and 1608. He was Usher of the School, 1587-1615.

the goodes of Margaret Baron his sister without auctoritie." No doubt this was a case of evading probate duty, and as the profits of these cases went either into the coffers of the Bishop or the Rural Dean a motive is at once provided for this sudden outburst of Episcopal vigilance.

We find mention of the Church in the articles of sale when the Manor passed from the executors of Robert Pilkington to Robert Lever and Thomas Breres in 1611. Among the items of property conveyed occurs, "the inheritance of all that the Free Grammar School in Rivington and the Church or Chapelyard and Bell House in Rivington." It will be remembered that it was on this clause Thomas Breres and Robert Lever based their claim already referred to in 1628 (see p. 54).

The reference to the Bell House is interesting. It is possible that the great bell purchased in 1542,<sup>1</sup> even if it did not weigh quite as much as Towneley's transcript of the document seems to make out, was altogether too heavy for the little Chapel belfry, and consequently a detached Campanile or Bell Cote was built to the west of the Church, and that this is the little building still standing, though its object has been often overlooked and misunderstood. A further reference to this occurs in the Inquisition post-mortem of Robert Lever, in 1621, where it is called *domus campanarii*, and is enumerated among the possessions of which he had enjoyed a moiety.

Administration of the goods of Francis Banks, clerk, of Rivington, was granted on the 12th December 1618 to William Buckley of Blackrod. This is the only mention we get of

<sup>1</sup> See p. 35.





BELL HOUSE IN THE CHURCHYARD.



Mr. Banks, and beyond the details of his Inventory of goods we know nothing about him. His goods were valued for probate by John Ainsworth, Thomas Ward, Ralph Walell, Jeffrey Pilkington, and John Anderton, on the 5th December 1618. The list is headed by his books, which seem to have been his most valuable possession. They consisted of "2 bibles, 'Smith Sermons,' 'The Practise of Pietie,' with other small bookes, in all amountinge to the number of four score or thereabouts," value 40s. His belongings were of a somewhat varied character, including "a siled [ceiled] bed and a deske" worth 23s. 4d., "a tope of haye" worth 10s., "three chestes" at 4s., "iii walkinge staves," value 4d., twenty "peeeces of pewter and ii peweter spoones," one hen and seven chickens, and a signet of silver. The poor man's wardrobe was not very extensive. It seems to have consisted of "ould wollen apparell, stockinges, a hat, gloves, garters, gumashos<sup>1</sup> and shooes" worth £1. His total personalty amounted to £7, 10s.

From an agreement<sup>2</sup> made about a playground for the Grammar School, and dated 6th October 1620, we learn that the Rev. Robert Worthington was "Minister and Preacher of God's Word at Rivington" at that time. About this time Rivington figures again in the Episcopal Visitation books at Chester, and again the question which arouses this energy is a pecuniary one.

On the 9th November 1625 Richard Abbott, churchwarden of Rivington, is haled before the Ecclesiastical Court because he "denieth to gather the Church lea<sup>3</sup> being called for the use of the Church of Bolton." The notes in the Registrar's clerk's handwriting are most difficult to decipher, being little more

<sup>1</sup> Leggings.

<sup>2</sup> "Tebay's Statutes," p. 77.

<sup>3</sup> Lea = lay or assessment.



than a hasty scrawl, but Abbott seems to have been excommunicated for the offence, and absolved, or rather the sentence suspended provided he obeyed the order, under date 17th March 1626 (n.s.) "to collecte and gather such leas and cessments due to Bolton Church as belonge unto him to gather and hath bin accustomed to be collected by his predecessors churchwardens of Rivington and to certifye his diligent performance, &c., herein under the Minister and churchwardens their hands of Bolton within two months."

The next mention of the Incumbent of Rivington is in 1635,<sup>1</sup> when the Lancashire clergy were assessed for their contributions to the famous Ship-Money. The Rev. Edmund Shawe,<sup>2</sup> "Minister of Rivington," pays 2s. 6d. He also signs the Transcripts of the Register lodged with the Bishop, dated 1637 and 1639. Unfortunately no further Transcripts occur until 1721.<sup>3</sup>

With the raising of the Ship-Money came the first ominous rumblings of the storm that was to burst in the great Civil War, and for nearly thirty years following this date Lancashire was convulsed with the war and with all that followed it. For this distracted period we have fuller information so far as Rivington Church matters are concerned than for any other time until the nineteenth century. The cause of this is that Lancashire was one of the counties where the Presbyterian system of Church government set up during the Common-

<sup>1</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xii. p. 112.

<sup>2</sup> It is possible that he was a nephew of George Shaw of High Bullough whose bequests to the parish of Rivington are recounted on p. 84.

<sup>3</sup> While in the press a fragment of another transcript—for 1696—has been discovered at Chester, and the writer has found a number, from 1676 to 1694, included in the Bolton Transcripts.

wealth was carried out fully, and in the account of the proceedings of the various Church Courts, copies of which fortunately still exist, we gather a good deal of information as to the state of Rivington at this time.

Before turning to the "Minutes of the Classis," as these documents are called, we have one valuable item of information in the shape of the list of signatures to the Protestation of 1641-42. This Protestation<sup>1</sup> was first drawn up in the early summer of 1641, and laid before the Houses of Parliament for the signatures of the members on the 3rd of May. It expressed the resolve of the signatories to maintain "the true reformed Protestant religion . . . against all Popery," and to defend "His Majesty's royal person, as also the power and privilege of Parliament"—two claims which the signatories subsequently found to be somewhat conflicting!—and "to endeavour to preserve the union and peace betwixt the three kingdoms." It was attested by both Houses and then sent down to the country for signing. Nothing very much, however, seems to have been done to secure signatures until the following January, when the King attempted to seize the Five<sup>2</sup> members in the House. This act was practically the Declaration of War, and immediately on its failure the King withdrew to Hampton Court and to Windsor, while the Queen sailed for Holland with the Crown jewels to buy munitions of war. That the sheep and the goats among the people should at once be clearly divided became obvious to the Commons, and they despatched a peremptory letter to the different

<sup>1</sup> The text of the Protestation will be seen in the Appendix, p. 165, and the signatures on p. 44.

<sup>2</sup> Hampden, Pym, Hollis, Strode, and Haselrig.

Sheriffs and Mayors, urging them to have the Protestation immediately signed by all. Though ostensibly a document framed as much in the interests of the King as those of the Parliament, in reality it was generally recognised that to sign it amounted to a declaration for the Parliament. Hence we can judge by the number of signatories in a parish as to its general political views. That not one person refused to sign in Rivington and Anglezargh is clear proof, if such were needed, of the strong Puritan feeling which prevailed in the valley, and in one sense it may be said that from this act dates the commencement of definite Nonconformity here. As will be seen in the list itself printed on p. 44, a new name occurs as Incumbent of Rivington. Mr. Edmund Shaw had evidently died or resigned, and had been succeeded by the Rev. Robert Dewhurst.<sup>1</sup> Of Mr. Dewhurst we know nothing, although he may probably be identified with a Robert Dewhurst, son of Thomas Dewhurst of Waddington, near Clitheroe, who matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, 27th May 1636, aged eighteen.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Dewhurst does not appear to have stayed long at Rivington, certainly not later than 1646, as on the 23rd February 1647 (n.s.) we find him at Newchurch in Rossendale, where, according to an order issued by the Committee of Plundered Ministers,<sup>3</sup> there have been "several gross scandals proved against him." He had, however, in spite of this, continued to preach, and had "proceeded in his pretended ministry . . .

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Principal Gordon of the Memorial Hall, Manchester, for drawing my attention to the existence of this Incumbent, and for pointing out the value of the list of signatures appended to the Protestation.

<sup>2</sup> Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.

<sup>3</sup> Rec. Soc., L. & C., vol. xxviii. p. 48.

contemptuously,"—he was accordingly to be promptly dealt with. This rebuke must have had a good effect, however, as in the Commonwealth Survey in 1650<sup>1</sup> he is described as "an able divine."

The next Incumbent who followed Mr. Dewhurst was the Rev. Thomas Blackburn. From the Minutes of the "Second Classis of the Province of Lancaster,"<sup>2</sup> it appears that Mr. Blackburn<sup>3</sup> had been ordained by "a Bishoppe," presumably Bishop Bridgeman of Chester, in 1644 and 1645, and had no doubt been chosen as Minister of Rivington immediately thereafter. Certainly he was there in 1647 when, on the 25th March, his case was brought before the Classis or Presbytery at Bury on the petition and complaint of Richard Kershaw (of Anglezargh), George Shaw (of High Bullough), William Hopton, Richard Taylor, William Anderton (of Rivington), and John Anderton.<sup>4</sup> The charges were ten in number, and included the complaints that "he doth not attend his charge but is many days absent and sleights his congregation without publicke notice or private either in due time and so itt cometh to passe that people loose their labour to church and are disappointed of the means, and some take occasion to drinke and prophane the Lord's day." Another serious charge is that "he useth to kneele down at his first comeing both into the deske and pulpitt," surely not a very serious offence one cannot help thinking, but no doubt his congregation scented some-

<sup>1</sup> Rec. Soc., L. & C., vol. i. p. 168.

<sup>2</sup> Chetham Soc., vol. xxxvi. (N.S.) p. 8 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> Probably the Thos. Blackburn, son of William of Blackley Hurst, Co. Lanc., gent., who matriculated at Brazenose College, Oxford, Nov. 22, 1639, aged eighteen, B.A. Feb. 7, 1642-43, B.D. Sept. 12, 1661.—Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix, p. 169, for full text of the charges.

thing "Papistical" in the act. We find also that he "baptized a child born of Popish parentage in the hundred of Lealand and the father was absent." It is curious in view of the fact that his congregation disliked his silent prayers or genuflexions on entering the pulpit that they also object that "he useth to preach without prayinge before." Most of the above charges are more or less definite, but he must have had difficulty in combating the rather vague accusation that "he useth to associate himself with profane company."

Mr. Blackburn appeared at the next monthly meeting, but the charges above-mentioned do not appear to have been investigated, as we merely find him exhibiting his letters of ordination. At the May monthly meeting the case of Mr. Blackburn came up again. "Whereas Mr Thomas Blackburne was approved of by the Committy of Ministers att Manchester to preach at Rivington for six months upon triall, and the time aforesaid is already expired, and also the well-affected of the congregation have desired us to forbare any further approbation of the said Mr. Blackburne, wee have upon reesons alledged by them resolved noe further to approve of the said Mr. Blackburn to be Minister at Rivington."

Mr. Blackburn does not seem to have given in without a fight, as, at the next meeting, it is decided that he shall not "have a copy of the articles against him (as he desired) until the next classicall meeting." Evidently he desired to defend himself, poor man. It is a little contrary to our sense of fair play to practically condemn a man on evidence he has never had an opportunity of rebutting, if indeed this is the true interpretation of the incident. His protest, however, was unavailing, as on the 14th October, 1647, we find a petition from the inhabitants



of Rivington desiring to have "one Mr. Walker<sup>1</sup> for there minister."

After considering the petition,<sup>2</sup> it was decided that Mr. John Walker "have sufferance to exercise his gifts" at Rivington, subject to the future arranging of details. He never seems to have been actually inducted, as in the following July (1648) a further petition was sent in from Rivington requesting that his ordination might be hastened "because of there great distance from Boulton putting them upon great inconveniences for baptisme, &c." There is no record of his induction to Rivington, and in the February of the next year (1649) he was called as Minister of Newton Heath, in succession to William Walker, who had resigned. About the same time the people of Rivington set their affections on a certain Rev. Ralph Nuttall, and petitioned the Classis on April 11, 1649, that Mr. Nuttall "might be their Minister," and on the 24th May he was "approved," and at subsequent meetings of the Classis we find him present as minister of Rivington, and he preached in his turn at the monthly meeting. He does not seem to have given complete satisfaction to the authorities, however, and he was twice ordered by the Presbytery to arrange the full system of Presbyterian government at Rivington, and in reply seems to have urged that, as his stay there was so uncertain, it was scarcely worth while elaborating the system. While he was there a careful survey of the whole ecclesiastical position of

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. John Walker is often said to have been the son of the Rev. William Walker of Newton Heath, and succeeded his father as Incumbent of Newton Heath in February 1649 (n.s.).—Chetham Soc., vol. xxiv. (N.S.) p. 448. A reference to the will of the Rev. William Walker, proved in 1651, shows that this is incorrect, as no mention there occurs of a son of this name. He was M.A. of Glasgow University.

<sup>2</sup> This petition, which contains an interesting list of signatures, will be found printed *in extenso* in the Appendix, p. 170.

Lancashire and Cheshire was taken, and a very interesting account of Rivington has come down to us in what is known as The Commonwealth Church Survey for Lancashire and Cheshire.<sup>1</sup>

From this it appears that "Mr. Rauffe Nuttall, a godly, painfull, and orthodox minister officiateth the Cure there;" and that the endowment fund amounted to about £16 per annum.

He seems to have stayed longer than any of his immediate predecessors in spite of the uncertainty he felt, as he did not leave Rivington until the beginning of 1654,<sup>2</sup> when he moved to Stretford near Manchester. It is not clear who followed, but probably it was a Mr. Abbott.<sup>3</sup> The first we hear of Mr. Abbott is in December 1656,<sup>4</sup> when he sent an excuse of absence by the hands of his neighbour, Mr. John Isherwood of Horwich Chapel, to the meeting held at Bolton. At the next Classis Meeting in January 1657 (n.s.) his case was referred to, and it was decided to summon him to attend on the next occasion. He did not come, however, but sent word by Mr. Goodwin of Bolton, "that he was not fully settled at Riveington, and could not att present satisfie the Classe concerning his joyneing with them in government." Evidently he too, like Mr. Nuttall, did not enter very heartily into the efforts of the authorities to set up the Presbyterian system. We know nothing more of Mr. Abbott, but he probably relin-

<sup>1</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. i. p. 34. For a full copy of this interesting account of the Parish see Appendix, p. 171.

<sup>2</sup> Chetham Soc., vol. xxiv. (N.S.) p. 443.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Shaw, Chetham Soc., vol. xli. (N.S.) p. 205, conjectures that he was a Mr. Thomas Abbott, son of George Abbot of Mellor near Blackburn, and gives some further particulars about him.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 148 *et seq.*

quished the charge of Rivington shortly after, and was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel Newton.

If the date and age given in Oliver Heywood's Register are correct—viz., that Samuel Newton died in 1682, aged forty-eight, he would not be twenty-four years of age until 1657, before which time he would be too young for Presbyterian ordination—we shall probably not be far wrong if we hazard 1657 as the date of his induction to Rivington. We are told by Calamy<sup>1</sup> in his Nonconformist's Memorial that Newton suffered ejection from Rivington Church in 1662, and that he lived for a time at Crompton and preached as opportunity offered. Thomas Blackburn is also said<sup>2</sup> to have been restored to the living in 1662, and to have held it until his death in 1665.

It is possible that the Rev. John Breres, brother of Thomas Breres, who was at this time owner of one of the moieties of the Manor of Rivington, occupied the living at this time. In the Bolton Register under date 1668 is the entry, "Thomas Halliwell of Sharples and Ann Heaton of Heaton, in Deane Parish, married at Rivington by Mr. Jo: Briers, — June."

Mr. Nightingale in his excellent "History of Lancashire Nonconformity"<sup>3</sup> seems to think that the Rev. Samuel Newton returned to his charge in the Episcopal Church of Rivington in 1672, and yet retained his Nonconformity intact. If

<sup>1</sup> Calamy writes: "Being turned out in 1662 he lived at Crompton and preached there as times would bear it. He afterwards removed back again to Rivington and read some of the prayers, and had liberty to preach in the Church without disturbance. He died in March 1682 not above forty [*sic*] years of age, but his abilities and graces were in full maturity. His funeral sermon was preached by Mr. John Walker, his neighbour and successor, on Sam. xxv. 1."

<sup>2</sup> List of Incumbents on tablet in the Church.

<sup>3</sup> Vol. iii. p. 87.

this was so, it is rather difficult to reconcile it with the fact that among the Bishop's Muniments at Chester under date 20th June 1674, in an official list of the clergy of the diocese occurs the following under the head of Rivington :—

Mr. SAMUEL NEWTON, minister.<sup>1</sup>

JAMES PILKINGTON (parish) clerke.

Mr. JO. BRADLEY and JO. HODSON, school m<sup>rs</sup>. at Rivington.

It is not at all likely that a Nonconformist would thus have his name included in a list of clergy showing the Incumbents of the various parishes. At the same time it is possible that under the lax rule of Bishop Wilkins, Mr. Newton may have entered once more on his labours at Rivington Church without subscribing to the Act of Uniformity, especially as Adam Martindale distinctly states that about this time "there was so great connivance at publick and private preaching in Bolton parish, and several other parishes adjacent," that he himself preached publicly at Gorton and Birch Chapel as well as at Cockey, Walmesley, and Darwin.<sup>2</sup> As will be seen on p. 94, Samuel Newton received a licence on the 10th June 1672 as a "Presbyterian Teacher," so that he evidently still considered himself a Nonconformist. At the same time the entry at the Archdeacon's Visitation in 1674 remains, and is to some extent a difficulty.

<sup>1</sup> A possible explanation is as follows: The name occurs on a rough hand list, and has been struck out and the word *abijt* written over it. It is evident from numerous other instances in the same document that the word *abijt* is here used to mean that he did not appear, so we may have the clue to the situation—viz., that by the connivance of "gentle Bishop Wilkins" he had been officiating at Rivington, but when summoned to appear before Bishop Pearson, or his Archdeacon, he declined to answer the summons, and absented himself from the Visitation.

<sup>2</sup> Chetham Soc., vol. iv. p. 193.

Among the Rivington Muniments is an account of the settlement of a curious little dispute as to a burying-place in the Church. It is dated January 8, 1674[5], and is described as "An award of John Walker of Heath Charnock, Co. Lanc., clerke," in a quarrel between Robert Lever of Darcy Lever, gentleman, the owner of a moiety of the Manor of Rivington, and Peter Shaw of Heath Charnock. Mr. Walker decides that Robert Lever shall have "all that compasse and bredth of ground in the said Parochiall Chapell of Rivington limited and bounded as followeth—viz., from the wall adjoyninge to the Chancell on the South syde of the said Chappell as farr as to the foote of a large massie stone lying three yardes and three inches below westward from the said wall in length, and from the wall southward followinge the foote of the said stone by direct line northward to the middle of the said Chappell. Peter Shaw shall have one length below the Burial place of the said Robert Lever and adjoyninge next to it extending in bredth from the wall on the south syde to the north syde of the South Alley." The award is witnessed by Samuel Newton, John Bradley, and George Shaw.

Samuel Newton lived for several years prior to his death at the New Hall in Rivington, which he held on lease under Robert Lever of Darcy Lever. In his will, dated 6th March 1682, in which he describes himself simply as "Samuel Newton in the County of Lancaster, clarke," he leaves considerable property to his wife Elizabeth, and his children, Caleb, Abigail, Elizabeth, and Sarah. He mentions real estate in Blackburn and Padiham, and makes his wife and Edward Richardson of Tonge (his brother-in-law) his executors. As trustees of a settlement he appoints Thomas Anderton of Rivington, James



Shaw of Anglezargh, and John Bradley the schoolmaster of Rivington. The inventory of goods is dated 28th April, and includes "silver," valued at £10, 12s.; "bookes," which were specially "apprized" by John Walker and John Bradley at £23, 12s. 3d. The date of probate is 22nd June 1682.

Samuel Newton was buried on the 11th March 1682 (n.s.)<sup>1</sup> in "that part of the Chancell in the Church or Parochial Chapell of Rivington belonging to Robert Lever of Darcy Lever" by special permission obtained from Mr. Lever; such is the gist of a letter dated 29th March 1682 still lying among the Rivington muniments.

The next Incumbent of Rivington Church is said by Nightingale, as well as by the tablet in the Church, to have been the Rev. John Walker, the same man who held the living from 1647 to 1649, and who is said to have been ejected from Newton Heath in 1662.<sup>2</sup> This again is difficult to accept, but in the absence of evidence it can neither be proved nor disproved. He certainly did not continue to hold the living until 1703, as stated on the tablet in the Church, for the Clergy Lists at Chester tell us that in June 1686 the Rev. John Battersby,<sup>3</sup> M.A., was holding the living, and that he exhibited

<sup>1</sup> While these papers were in the press some transcripts of the Rivington Register have been found at Chester, and under date 11th March 1682 (n.s.) is the following entry, "Mr. Samuel Newton, Minister, was buried." The use of the word "Minister," without any qualifying adjective such as "Nonconformist" or "Dissenting teacher," points very strongly to the conclusion that whether he conformed or not he certainly seems to have been regarded as the regularly appointed Incumbent.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. John Walker received a licence to officiate as a Presbyterian minister at Newton, Co. Lanc., in 1672. (Information by Mr. E. G. Atkinson.)

<sup>3</sup> Probably the same as the John Battersbie, son of Richard of Shakerly, Co. Lanc., who matriculated at Brazenose College, Oxford, 28th March 1667, aged eighteen, B.A. January, 1670-71.—Forster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.

letters of ordination by John (Pearson), Bishop of Chester, dated 21st May 1676, and licence to serve the Cure from the same Bishop, dated 28th April 1686. The living seems to have been vacant at the Archdeacon's Visitation of 1696, but on the 4th May 1701 we find the Rev. Joshua Dixon, B.A., filling it. He appears to have been Curate of Ringley Chapel, and had been in Priest's orders since 1677.

He exhibited his licence to serve the Cure of Rivington from Nicholas (Stratford), Bishop of Chester, dated 12th September 1699. The Rev. Joshua continued to officiate at Rivington for many years, certainly until 1716. During Mr. Dixon's reign the famous survey of the Diocese, known as Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia*, was begun, and the information therein contained was no doubt mainly supplied by this Vicar,<sup>1</sup> though some of it may have been sent in by Mr. Gray.

The certified annual value had increased since 1650 to £28, the main increase being due to a legacy of £150 from John Fielding, probably of Heath Charnock. The account goes on to state that £100 had "formerly been given by Thomas Anderton, and £10 by his sister, now lost, supposed to have been applied by the Dissenting Trustees to the maintenance of their Teacher." Among the Rivington muniments is an original letter unsigned, presumably from Mr. Dixon, stating that the Dissenters had not only kept back this legacy, but that they had actually stolen away a chest full of documents relating to the endowment fund, but that by dint of vigorous threats and denunciations the writer had succeeded in making them return the chest, which they did, leaving it one night in the

<sup>1</sup> For the full text of this important survey, see Appendix, p. 184.

Church porch, but in the meantime most of the documents had been abstracted.<sup>1</sup>

The Rev. Andrew Gray, who appeared at the Archdeacon's Visitation on the 12th May 1725, began life as a Nonconformist Minister at Tintwisle in Mottram, County Chester,<sup>2</sup> but subsequently took orders, and was ordained Deacon by Nicholas Stratford, Bishop of Chester, 19th September 1697, and Priest by the same, 18th December 1698. He was inducted as Vicar of Mottram on the 20th September 1697 while still in Deacon's orders, and continued there until 1716. It is probable that he came to Rivington either in this or the following year, and remained there until his death in the winter of 1727.<sup>3</sup> His will is dated 23rd November 1727, and he therein describes himself as "Andrew Gray of Anglezargh in the County of Lancaster, clerk," and the document is endorsed as the will of "Andrew Gray, late of Rivington, clerk." It was proved by his widow, Dorothy Gray, 19th February 1728 (n.s.). He mentions his sons, Thomas, Bennet, and John, and his daughters, Mary, Margaret, and Ann, wife of Richard Low of Rivington, weaver. He appoints his wife and Mr. Norcross, Schoolmaster of Rivington, his executors.

There is an interesting account of Mr. Gray in Urwick's "Nonconformity in Cheshire,"<sup>4</sup> in which it is stated that Mr. Gray was a Scotsman who wrote several works which enjoyed much popularity at one time. When he left his Nonconformist

<sup>1</sup> It will be seen by reference to p. 100, that these charges, since repeated by several writers, are quite without foundation.

<sup>2</sup> Earwaker's "East Cheshire," vol. ii. p. 132.

<sup>3</sup> The entry in Rivington Register is "Mr. Andrew Gray of Anglezark, buried Dec. 16, 1727." His widow, Dorothy, was also buried at Rivington as of Charnock, Apr. 4, 1736.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 355.

flock, and was appointed to the cure of Mottram, his former congregation went to hear him preach, being rather curious, as it is recorded, "to know with what face Mr. Gray would demean himself in the very robes which he had so often denounced as "the foppery of Babylon!" Nor were they disappointed, being not a little amused by his "confused countenance and awkward deportment upon the occasion."

On Mr. Gray's death the living was presented to the Rev. John Waddington, B.A., who appeared at the Visitation of July 6, 1728, and exhibited his letters of ordination as Deacon by Samuel (Peploe) Bishop of Chester, 3rd March 1728 (n.s.), and licence to serve the cure by the same Bishop, dated 4th March 1728 (n.s.). Mr. Waddington was ordained Priest by the Bishop of Chester, 21st December 1730, and continued to hold the living until his death in 1755.<sup>1</sup> His will was proved at Chester in that year as of "Heath Charnock, clerk."

His successor was the Rev. William Walsh, M.A., who had been ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Chester, 21st December 1746, and Priest by the Bishop of Lincoln, 10th March 1754. It is stated in the Visitation Book that he was licensed to serve the cure of Rivington by the Bishop "at the nomination of the Inhabitants and Housekeepers" of the parish on the 18th June 1755. Mr. Welsh held the living until his resignation in 1763.<sup>2</sup> He became curate of Tarporley, in Cheshire, and died there in 1764, and his will was proved at Chester in that year.

The next Incumbent was the Rev. John Fisher, B.A. At

<sup>1</sup> Tablet over south door in Rivington Church.

<sup>2</sup> Hampson prints this letter of resignation, dated 14th June 1763 at "Tarporley," in his "History of Rivington," p. 101.

the Visitation of 1766 he appeared and showed his letters of ordination as Deacon by Richard (Terrick), Bishop of London, 27th February 1763, and Priest by Edmund (Keene), Bishop of Chester, 2nd June 1765. His licence to serve the cure of Rivington is dated 30th October 1763, and it again states that his licence was issued at the "nomination of the Inhabitants of the Chapelry of Rivington." In a report sent in to the Bishop in 1766 it is stated that he "resides constantly in the house belonging to the Cure." His incumbency exceeded in length of years any previous one of which we have knowledge, as he continued to serve the cure until his death in 1813.

There are still at the Diocesan Registry at Chester several full sets of replies which he made at the different Visitations of the Parish. In 1778 he returns the answers that there are 68 families in Rivington Parish, one Family of Note (the Andrews of Rivington Hall), no papists, 27 families of Presbyterians, no Independents, no Anabaptists, one Quaker, four families of Methodists, and no Moravians. "There is one Presbyterian who is a Gentleman." There is one Meeting House which is not licensed. In 1789 the number of houses in the Parish (*i.e.* in the four villages) had increased to 88. There were "290 Presbyterians all of common rank except one Robert Andrews, Esq." One Meeting House licensed, Mr. Hibbert the Teacher, "but not qualified according to law." He states of the Grammar School that it is "Free to all parts of the world" and is governed by John Walker, Richard Pilkington, Alexander Gerrard, Richard Mason, James Magnal, all Presbyterians, and John Kershaw, a Quaker." Truly a curious Board of Governors for a school, the religious teaching of which was to be according to the Church of England.



Mr. Fisher died in 1813 at the age of seventy-four, and was buried on the 7th October in the churchyard close to the Bell House. He is said to have been a B.A. of Peter House, Cambridge.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Fisher was succeeded by the Rev. William Heaton, who was nominated by the Parish. Mr. Heaton was a Bachelor of Arts of Queen's College, Oxford, and had been Headmaster of the Grammar School since 1805, before which time he seems to have been at Brindle. He was the son of John Heaton of Standish, Co. Lanc., and matriculated 17th May 1781, and took his B.A. in 1785. He died in 1823 and was buried on the 3rd May in that year.

His successor was the Rev. James Jackson, who was elected on May 9, 1823.

Mr. Jackson seems to have been a man of considerable character, and many stories of his original sayings and acts still survive in the village. Perhaps the best known is that on one occasion when some repairs were required to be done to the weathercock on the Church, and difficulty was experienced in getting any of the village masons to risk their limbs in the perilous ascent, Mr. Jackson volunteered to go up himself. He successfully accomplished his task, and returned to the ground in safety amid the plaudits of the assembled villagers. It is said that he promptly recorded the event in the following amusing lines:—

“Who has not heard of Steeple Jack,  
That lion-hearted Saxon,  
Though I'm not he, he was my sire,  
For I am Steeple Jackson.”

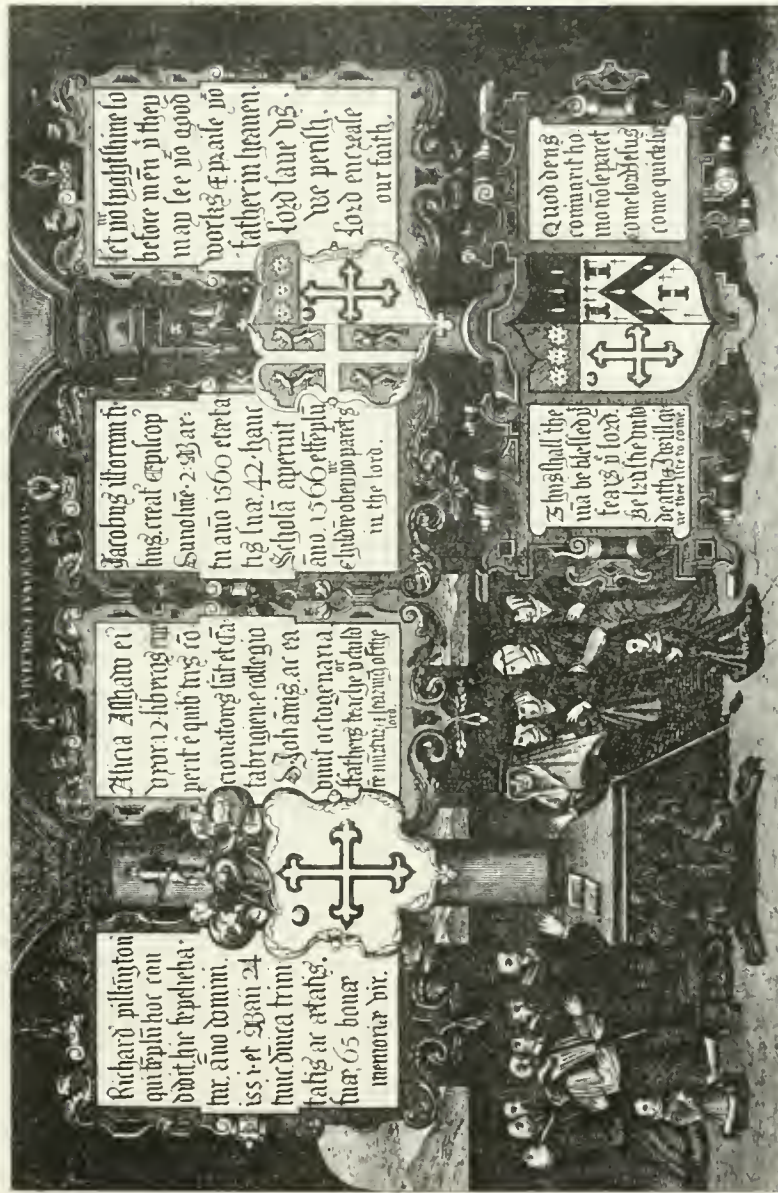
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<sup>1</sup> Hampson's "History of Rivington," p. 101.

He was very fond of mountain climbing, and is said to have made a practice of ascending Helvellyn every year on his birthday. It was on one of these expeditions that he met his death. When his body was found an epigram on the subject of his increasing years was found in his pocket. He died on the 1st May 1878, aged eighty-two. Mr. Ritson writes that the registers which he kept are a marvel of neatness; there is not a mistake nor blot in the whole of them, and they cover thirty-three years.

Mr. Jackson resigned 26th August 1856, and was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Sutcliffe, who was elected 6th September 1856, and died 22nd March 1879.

At Mr. Sutcliffe's election there was a good deal of excitement, as it was a contested one, and there was a protest lodged against the inhabitants of Belmont voting. They did so as included in Sharples, one of the hamlets mentioned in the Charter. There was a feeling expressed, however, after this experience, that the system of popular election led to a good deal of unseemliness, and that it would be better to ask the Bishop to nominate in the future. This was done in the case of the present Incumbent, the Rev. William Ritson, who was elected on 1st May 1879. Mr. Ritson is a Master of Arts of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and was ordained Deacon in 1869, and Priest by the Bishop of Manchester in 1870. During his Incumbency the living has been increased to £340 per annum by a grant from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners from accumulations of the income of property owned by them in Bolton, and a grant of £1500 has also been made towards rebuilding the Parsonage. This was done at a cost of over £2000, the balance being defrayed by Mr. Ritson.



Engraved by V.C. Ellersby Spring, Gardonia March

THE PILKINGTON PICTURE.





## THE CHURCH AND MONUMENTS

The Church is finely situated on abrupt rising ground, commanding a good view over the reservoirs. It is a small, plain building of the local sandstone, and consists of a nave and chancel without aisles. Over the west end is a stone bell-cot, which seems coeval with the rest of the structure, and has a pointed pyramid, on an octagonal base, which is set upon corbels. The original entrances seem to have been on the north and south wall towards the west end. The east window has a depressed pointed arch of five lights. The other windows are of three lights and have no features which call for comment. Sir Stephen Glynne<sup>1</sup> thought the building of post-Reformation origin, probably of the time of Queen Elizabeth, when probably the original Church was rebuilt.

To the west of the Church stands the little detached building already referred to, built as a bell-cot to carry the heavy bell purchased by Richard Pilkington in 1542. It was re-roofed a few years ago, and is now used for the storage of tools and coke. Of the Church furniture there is little deserving of mention, with the exception of an interesting screen of a rather late character, and an oak pulpit not unlike the pulpit shown in the Pilkington picture and from which the Bishop is preaching. Only a portion of the screen is original, and what is left has been rather cut about at different times. The Vicar states that formerly some oil paintings were attached to the screen for the edification of the parishioners. One of these pictures is said to have represented the "Rape of the Sabines,"—scarcely a scriptural subject! It is also

<sup>1</sup> "Lancashire Churches" (Chetham Soc., vol. xxvii. N.S.), p. 96.



stated that the screen originally came from some neighbouring Religious House; but this does not seem probable, as there was no such institution in the immediate neighbourhood, and

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF GEORGE SHAW GENTLEMAN WHO WAS THE FOVRTH SONNE OF LAWRENCE SHAW OF HIGH BOLLOVGH IN THE CO VNTY OF LANCASTER WHO IN HIS LYFE TYME GAVE TWO HVNDRED POVND S TO BE A STOCKE FOREVER FOR THE VSE OF THIS CHVRCH OF RIVINGTON THE PROFITTS WHEREOF TO BE PAID YEARLY TO A PREACHING MINISTER AT THIS CHVRCH AND AT HIS DEATH HEE GAVE BESYDES OTHER LARGE LEGACIES TO HIS KINSFOLKES AND FREIN DS THE SVME OF ONE HVNDRED POVND S TO BE A STOCKE FOREVER THE PROFFITTS WHEREOF TO BE YEARLY DISTRIBVTED AMONGST THE POORE INHABITANTS OF RIVINGTON ANDLESARGH HEATH CHARNOCKE AND ANDERTON ON PETERS DAY AND MICHAELS DAY BY EVEN PORTIONS AND AN HVNDRED AND NYNTIE POVND E (BEING THE REMANDER OF HIS ESTATE) HEE ALSOE GAVE TO BE BESTOWED ON LAND OR LAID OVT VPON A RENT CHARGE FOREVER THE PROFFITTS WHEREOF TO BE LENT FROM TYME TO TYME GRATIS TO POORE TENNANTS WITHIN THE TOWNES AFORESAID TOWARDS THE PAYING OF THEIR FYNES FOR SVCH TYME AND AT THE DISCRETION OF M<sup>R</sup> ALEXANDER FEEILDEN AND M<sup>R</sup> GEORGE SHAW HIS EXECVTORS AND THEIR HEIRES AND OTHERS NAMED IN HIS LAST WILL: HEE DYED NOVEMBER THE VIII DAY ANNO DONI 1650 BEING OF THE AGE  
OF 73 YEARS

the value of the screen would hardly have warranted its being moved any distance.

There are not many monuments in the Church. Over the vestry door, on the north wall, is a curious genealogical painting relating to the Pilkington family. A full account of

this, together with a translation of the texts, will be found in the Appendix, p. 187. The roof is partly old, and now that the ceiling has been cleared away the old oak beams are visible and give a character to the interior of the building.

### MEMORIÆ SACRVM

HERE LYETH BVRYED, THE BODY OF IOHN SHAWE, SECONDE SONNE OF LAWRENCE SHAWE OF HIGH BVLHAVGH IN ANLEYZARGH IN THE COVNTY OF LANC: BY WHOSE GVIFT & PROVISION OVT OF LANDES THE YEARLY SVMMME OF TEN SHILLINGES IS TO BE PAYDE YEARLY FOR EVER, TOWARDS THE REPAYRE OF THIS CHVRCH OF RYVINGTON & ALSO THE YEARLY SVMMME OF TWENTY NOBLES, TO BE DISTRIBVTED YEARLY FOR EVER, VNTO THE POORE PEOPLE INHABITING IN RYVINGTON ANLEYZARGH HEATH: CHERNOCKE AND ANDERTON IN THE SAYD COVNTY THE ONE MOYTIE ON GOOD FRAYDAY AND THE OTHER MOYTIE ON THE FIRST SONDAY IN ADVENT. HE DYED Y<sup>E</sup> XII DAY OF NOVEMBER A<sup>O</sup>. DVI. 1627 BEING THEN OF Y<sup>E</sup> AGE OF 55 YEARES

REVEL. 14. 13. BLESSED ARE THE DEAD THAT DYE IN THE LORD EVEN SOE SAYTH THE SPIRITE FOR THEY REST FROM THEIR LABOVRS AND THEIR WORKES FOLLOWE THEM



AS I AM THOV SHALL BE.

Under the window next to the pulpit, on the north side of the nave, is an interesting inscription to the memory of George Shawe of Anglezargh, on a brass tablet, 12½ inches wide and 13½ inches high.<sup>1</sup> For this inscription, see p. 84.

<sup>1</sup> In the accounts of the surviving executor of George Shawe of Anglezargh, filed at Chester, 5th May 1663, is the following item: "For a plate of brass and for setting it up in Rivington Church, £4, 10s. od." Chetham Soc., vol. xxviii. (N.S.), p. 91.

On the same wall is the following modern brass :—

✠ This brass is placed in memory / of Lucy Margaret / wife of William Ritson / Incumbent of this Church. / "Until the day break and the shadows flee away." 1891./

Further towards the west, on the same wall, is a rather larger brass,<sup>1</sup> commemorating John Shaw, second son of Lawrence Shaw of High Bullough, in Anglezargh.

On the case of the organ at the west, and over the door, are the arms of Bishop Pilkington impaled by those of the See of Durham, and ensigned by a mitre.

Over the south door on a black tablet is the following list of incumbents. The original list is said to have been on a wooden board.<sup>2</sup>

#### INCUMBENTS AS KNOWN

BLACKBOURN ORD. 1644. EJEC. MAR: 1647.  
 REST. 1662.  
 NEWTON PUT IN 1647. EJEC. 1662.  
 RET. AT BLACKBOURN'S DEATH.  
 DIED 1682, AGED 40.  
 WALKER SUC. 1682. WENT TO CHAPEL 1703.  
 REV: A. GRAY BUR. DEC: 16, 1727.  
 REV: I. WADDINGTON ELEC. 1736.  
 BUR. NOV: 15, 1754.  
 REV: W. WELSH RESIG. JUN. 1763.  
 REV: JOHN FISHER B.A. ELEC. SEP: 15, 1763.  
 BUR. OCT. 7, 1813, AGED 74.  
 REV: W. HEATON B.A. ELEC. NOV. 4, 1813.  
 BUR. MAY 3, 1823, AGED 74.  
 REV: JAMES JACKSON ELEC. MAY 9, 1823.  
 RESIGNED AUG. 26, 1856.  
 REV: THOMAS SUTCLIFFE ELEC. SEP. 6, 1856.  
 DIED MARCH 22, 1879.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 85.

<sup>2</sup> Information of Principal Gordon.

On the south wall, on a marble tablet, is the following inscription :—

IN MEMORY OF  
 THOMAS LOWE OF *RIVINGTON*  
 WHO DIED FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> 1764  
 AGED 38 YEARS  
 AND OF MARGARET HIS WIFE  
 WHO DIED NOVEMBER 17, 1807  
 AGED 75 YEARS  
 AND ALSO OF GEORGE THEIR SON  
 WHO DIED IN LONDON, DEC : 7  
 1826 AGED 64 YEARS

On the same wall, on white marble, in a black Gothic frame between the middle window and the window next to the chancel, is the following :—

THE REV. JAMES JACKSON, L.B.  
 CURATE OF CHORLEY  
 WAS ELECTED MINISTER OF RIVINGTON  
 MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 1823  
 BORN AT *KENDAL* APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> 1796  
 DIED MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1878 INTERRED AT ST. BEES  
 SUSANNA HIS WIFE WAS BORN  
 MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 1816  
 DIED AT SANDWICH, WHITEHAVEN  
 JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> 1883  
 THEIR CHILDREN  
 AGNES WAS BORN JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> 1836  
 FRANKLIN RAWDON  
 WAS BORN APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> 1838  
 DIED NOV. 4<sup>TH</sup> 1839

On the east wall of the nave to the south of the screen is a white marble monument bearing the following inscription :—

ROBERT ANDREWS of *RIVINGTON*, Esqr.

died 13th August 1793 aged 51 years

SARAH his wife

died 29th April 1791 aged 37 years

The Guardians of their Children have erected this Monument, to perform for them an Act of filial Piety, and to express -  
their own Respect and Affection for the  
Memory of the Departed.

[Below are the arms of Andrews : *sable, a saltire vert fimbriated argent*]

In the east window is the following inscription in the glass :—

To the Glory / of God and in / memory of Joseph and / Mary Ainsworth  
of / "The Thorns" Bolton.

Below the easternmost window on the north side, is a brass bearing the following inscription :—

**T**O THE Glory of God AND IN MEMORY OF Alice Smith OF  
LEVER HALL BOLTON-LE-MOORS WHO DIED 21 DECEMBER 1877

In the middle window on the north side in the glass is the following inscription :—

To the Glory of God and the memory / of the Revd. Thomas Sutcliffe for  
23 years Incumbent of Rivington / erected by his Friends and Parishioners.

On a brass below the middle window on the south side is :—

THIS WINDOW WAS ERECTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN  
MEMORY OF WILLIAM RYDER, A BENEFACTOR OF THIS CHURCH



In the churchyard are several interesting gravestones, their chief characteristic being the bold and, in some cases, original lettering used, quite unlike the conventional monumental inscriptions. The two earliest are simply initials : W.B., with the date 1616 cut above it ; and the other, O.M.B. above the date 1617. For eccentricity of lettering and spelling, the tomb of Elizabeth, wife of John Jolly of Heath Charnock, 1700, certainly bears the palm. The name is spelled Gollee, which is rendered more difficult of identification by the fact that a decorative symbol, like a capital I, is introduced before the surname, making it apparently read Igollee. Other tombs worthy of note by reason of their quaint carving or wording are those of Thomas Morres of Anglezark, 1699 ; John Morres of Anglezark, 1703 ; Roger Bromley of Sharples, 1702 ; Richard Latham of Rivington, mason, 1702 ; Thomas Nightingale of Anglezark, 1715 ; and Christopher Latham of Rivington, mason, 1721. In the south porch is a recumbent stone with the initials G.A. under the date 1666, which probably records a member of the Anderton family.



## CHAPTER III

### THE NONCONFORMIST CHAPEL

TO understand the history of Nonconformity we require to go back to the beginning of the Reformation, and see how at that critical time a struggle was taking place among the Reformers themselves—between those who wished to retain something of the old teaching and ceremonies, and those who were anxious to cut themselves free from all connection with the immediate past and revert to what they thought was the simplicity of the Apostolic era. To appreciate the Reformation we must think of it as a movement not confined simply to a few years during the first half of the sixteenth century, but as a ferment which lasted throughout the whole of the sixteenth and the greater part of the seventeenth centuries. While the Reformed Church of England was in the making it was not clear for many years which party would triumph: whether that which for brevity we may call the Anglican, or the party which later on came to be known as Puritan. During Edward's reign the gulf between the two parties was wide, but the reaction under Queen Mary drove them into closer contact, and resulted in something approaching harmony during the early years of Elizabeth. Towards the end of her reign, however, and throughout that of James, the breach became more apparent, while under Charles it widened to bloodshed. During the Commonwealth the Puritan party was in the ascendant, and



RIVINGTON UNITARIAN CHAPEL





wielded its newly-found power in a manner which it is impossible to defend. The natural reaction followed, and when the Anglican party regained power at the Restoration the differences between the two parties were so deep and bitter that however much we may deplore the Act of Uniformity, we cannot be surprised at its stringent provisions. With this Act the Puritan became a Nonconformist. For twenty-five years Act followed Act, and each made the lot of the Nonconformist harder ; and it was not until the passing of the Toleration Bill in 1689<sup>1</sup> that it was possible for the Nonconformists even to associate themselves legally into congregations and worship God as they thought right.

To apply this locally, there can be little doubt that the Nonconformists of Rivington can claim Bishop Pilkington of Durham as their *fons et origo*, and can look back to the preaching of George Marsh the Martyr, and others of his time, as the impulse which began the Puritan movement in the valley.

It is clear from the extracts quoted on page 69, that the chief members of the congregation which met at Rivington during the Commonwealth were pronounced Puritans, so that when on Bartholomew Sunday, 1662, their minister, the Rev. Samuel Newton, found himself for conscience' sake obliged to retire from his cure in the Parish Church, we may be sure that the bulk of his people followed him. It is stated<sup>2</sup> that Mr. Thomas Blackburn, who had been ejected in 1647, returned to his own again ; and this is possible, but since the bulk of the stipend must have come from the free-will offerings of the congregation, he may not have found the post a very remunerative one. It

<sup>1</sup> There was, of course, the lull about 1672-73, as will be explained later on.

<sup>2</sup> Tablet in the Church over south doorway.



is one of the ironies of fate that two-thirds of the small settled endowment attached to the cure came from the interest on the gift of £200 which had been made a few years before by Mr. George Shaw of High Bullough, the very man who was the moving spirit in the agitation which resulted in Blackburn's ejection in 1647. In 1664<sup>1</sup> the Conventicle Act was passed, which punished with fine, imprisonment, and transportation on a third offence, all persons who met in greater numbers than four "over and above those of the same household" for any religious worship save that of Common Prayer; while return or escape from banishment was punishable by death. The Five Mile Act, a year later, and the Conventicle Act of 1670, completed the code of persecution. By the provisions of the former of these every clergyman who had been driven out by the Act of Uniformity was called on to swear that he held it unlawful "upon any pretence whatsoever" to take up arms against the King, and that he would at no time "endeavour any alteration of government either in Church or State." In case of refusal he was forbidden to go within five miles of any borough or of any place where he had been wont to minister, "unless only in passing upon the road." As the main body of the Nonconformists belonged to the city and trading classes, the effect of this measure was to rob them of the religious teaching which they so dearly valued.

One of the hardest provisions of the Conventicle Act was that any magistrate could enforce its severest penalties upon the oath of a common informer without the formality of a trial by jury. Under the terrors of this rigorous law the Nonconformists were compelled to maintain the greatest secrecy

<sup>1</sup> Green's "History of the English People," p. 624.

respecting their services, and to meet in unknown and obscure spots, in barns, in woods, or on the mountain sides ; to keep watch against the approach of informers, or of magistrates and their officers, and to confine the notice of their meetings to their trusty friends, who would take every precaution against dangerous publicity. What Mr. Newton did under these circumstances we do not know. Tradition points to Noon Hill, on the slopes of Rivington Pike, as the spot where the Nonconformists met from time to time for worship and religious exercises. It certainly is a spot well adapted for such a purpose ; with outposts on the Pike itself and on the top of Winter Hill, no one could approach without being readily observed from a great distance.

The suggestion has been made that the small circle on the crest of Noon Hill was constructed for this gathering. This is obviously impossible. The circle is unquestionably of vastly greater age than this, and is also quite unsuitable for a meeting of more than a few dozen people. The rhetorical account, describing it as "an amphitheatre surrounding a stone pulpit," is simple nonsense.

When dealing with this period and its persecutions, it is always well to remember that the arm of the law was not so strong and highly developed as it is to-day, and with a friendly populace and magistrates with Nonconformist leanings, it is not improbable that the rigours of the time were less stern than fancy might paint them. A perusal of the lives of men like Heywood and Martindale shows that though sorely harassed at times, periods of quiescence occurred, when, in spite of all the legal disabilities under which they laboured, they managed to live in comparative tranquillity, and to instruct their scattered

flocks and cheer the faith of their brethren. At the same time the risk was always there of imprisonment in the unspeakable dens which, as gaols, at that time disgraced our country, and many of the leaders of Lancashire Nonconformity suffered terribly by their confinement. The Bishop of Chester, too, from 1662 until 1668, was a severe and uncompromising man, and did his utmost to extirpate what he considered schism from his diocese.

But this time of extreme stress did not last for very long, for in 1672 Charles exercised his royal prerogative, and suspended the penal laws against Nonconformists; quite unconstitutionally, it is true, and mainly from a desire to relieve their pressure on the Roman Catholics. Still, it afforded the Nonconformists great relief, and many of them immediately took advantage of the order to obtain licences to open places of worship. At Rivington we find Samuel Newton receiving a "General Licence" as a Presbyterian teacher on the 10th June in that year. He also obtained a licence to preach "in the oratory of John Bradshaw in Rivington, Lancashire."<sup>1</sup> There is evidently a slight error here, as the oratory referred to must be the semi-private chapel at Bradshaw

<sup>1</sup> I am very much indebted to Mr. Ernest G. Atkinson of the Public Record Office, for information as to these licences, and for much help as to this period of the history of Nonconformity, a subject which he has made specially his own. It seems that there were in all five licences issued:—

- (1) [Before June 10] to "Samuel Newton for the oratory of John Bradshaw in Rivington, Lancashire."
- (2) June 10, to Samuel Newton of "Riverton," Lancashire, a general licence as a Presbyterian "Teacher," *i.e.* a licence to preach in any allowed place.
- (3) July 16, a licence for "the oratory of John Bradshaw in Rivington, Lancashire."
- (4) July 16, a licence for a "meeting-place, Rivington, Lancashire."
- (5) September 5, a general licence to "—— Hill of Rivington, Lancashire, as a Presbyterian teacher."

belonging to John Bradshaw, at this time a leading Nonconformist. July 16, the date of the licence for Bradshaw Chapel, also saw the granting of a licence for a "Meeting-Place at Rivington, Lancashire," and thus may have come into being the first Chapel of Nonconformists in Rivington, the successor of which, built in 1703, still stands overlooking the village green.

That Nonconformity was very strong in the valley is shown by the fact that yet another licence was issued on the 5th September 1672 to Mr. "Hill of Rivington," as Presbyterian teacher, with liberty to preach in any allowed place. Nothing is known of this Mr. Hill, though in the following year an Isaac Hill<sup>1</sup> occurs in the Hearth Tax return for Rivington. As stated on p. 74, there is a great deal that is obscure in the relations between the Church and Nonconformity at this date in Rivington, but taking all the evidence into consideration, it seems probable that the sequence of events was as follows:—That Samuel Newton was ejected from Rivington Church in 1662, but remained in the immediate neighbourhood; that Mr. Blackburn returned to the living from which he had been ejected fifteen years before, and remained more or less identified with it until 1665, when he died.<sup>2</sup> At this time practically the whole of the parish appears to have been Nonconformist,

<sup>1</sup> This, however, is almost certainly a miscopy in the taxation returns for Isaac Gill, a name well known in Rivington at this time. It is possible, of course, that a corresponding mistake may have been made in the Licence, and that the grantee should be Gill, not Hill. There however appears to have been a family named Hill in Heath Charnock.

<sup>2</sup> This is assuming the identity of Thos. Blackburne with the "Thos. Blackburn of Blackleyhurst, clerke," whose inventory dated 20th April 1665, but not filed until 1669, is still preserved at Chester. There is no reason to doubt the identity, especially as some of his goods are said to be "at Crowlane House in Newton," to which place Blackburn had gone after leaving Rivington in 1647. He was buried at Winwick, Feb. 9, 1664-65.



certainly a considerable majority, and it may be that the Church remained vacant after Blackburne's death, or was supplied from time to time by the Rev. John Breres, Vicar of Chorley, and that Samuel Newton (possibly in conjunction with John Walker) ministered to the spiritual needs of the neighbourhood on Rivington Pike or in some outlying barn or farm building in the neighbourhood.<sup>1</sup> It is curious to find a year or two later that William Anderton of Rivington in his will, dated 25th August 1670, leaves ten shillings both to "Mr. John Walker, minister," and to "Mr. Samuel Newton, minister."<sup>2</sup> This state of affairs may have continued until the Act of 1672, when, armed with his general licence, Newton may have reoccupied the Church, and that, with "gentle Bishop Wilkins" in power at Chester, no great exception was taken to this course. Newton was evidently a man who commanded great respect, and this compromise may have satisfied all parties. It is even possible that the Mr. Hill who was licensed in September may have been the representative of a section of the Nonconformists, who were sterner in their views than Newton, and would not even traffic with Episcopacy so far as to occupy its building and eat its loaves and fishes.

At Newton's death in 1682, already referred to on p. 76, it is possible that this *modus vivendi* continued, and that the Rev. John Walker succeeded, as stated by Calamy. Certain it is that a Rev. John Walker<sup>3</sup> took a prominent part in the life

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Thompson tells me that tradition points to the Sheephouse or the Sheephouse Farm as the building in which the Nonconformists first met. The former appears to be a very likely spot for such a gathering, and is a house of considerable antiquity.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix, p. 174.

<sup>3</sup> From the Rivington Transcript for 1693, we learn that "Joanna, daughter of Mr. John Walker of Charnock," was buried on the 31st March, so he was evidently then living in the neighbourhood.



of the village at this time, as is evidenced by many of the Rivington documents about this period. He was a Nonconformist, but as he died in 1702, he could not very well "go to chapel" in 1703, as is so confidently stated on the tablet in the Church to which reference has already been made. It seems more probable that after Newton's death, the breach between Episcopacy and Nonconformity widened, and that Mr. Walker led the Nonconformists, while a Conforming clergyman was put into the Church by the Bishop of Chester. If no building had been erected in 1672 as a "Meeting-Place for Dissenters" in Rivington owing to the complacency of the authorities in Newton's re-occupying the Church, it seems probable that about this time (1682) one was either built or an existing barn adapted for the worship of the Nonconformists. Certain it is that a year or two later than this a separate Nonconformist cause existed in Rivington, as we find legacies in several of the wills proved at this period directed to the support of the Minister, and a Nonconformist Minister certainly suggests the existence of a building in which he could officiate. Mr. Walker, who was evidently a man of some position, made his will, dated 29th May 1702. In it he calls himself of Heath Charnock, "Minister of the Gospel," and distributes real estate in Castle-ton near Rochdale, in Kingston-Bowsey, County Sussex, in Heath Charnock, and elsewhere, to various members of his family, and mentions by name his sons John,<sup>1</sup> Alexander,<sup>2</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> According to Dickenson's "Nonconformist Register," p. 196, this John Walker married Deborah Gaskell [daughter of Daniel Gaskell of Prestwich] in January 1703 (n.s.). She was buried at Rivington, Feb. 25, 1720-21.

Principal Gordon in his contribution to the history of Rivington Chapel in the "Bi-Centenary Pamphlet," p. 23, states that the Rev. John Walker who was at Rivington in 1648 died in 1684, and that this John Walker was his son.

<sup>2</sup> Apparently a "chapman" in Bolton.

Benjamin, his daughter Elizabeth, his wife Janet, and his niece Hannah Walker, daughter of his brother Abraham Walker. He appoints his wife and his son-in-law, John Bradley of Rivington,<sup>1</sup> the Master of the Grammar School, executors of his will. His personalty was valued at £615, 9s. 8d.

As will be seen from the account of the Incumbents on p. 76, if Mr. Walker ever occupied the Church, he must have resigned or retired from it before June 1686, as at this date we find the Rev. John Battersby appointed and filling the cure. Three years later the Act of Toleration was passed, and the position of Nonconformists very greatly improved. It soon seems to have been recognised, however, by the Nonconformists, that there was no hope of reunion with the Church of England, and that the only thing to be done was to begin to build up endowment funds, so that their cause might be less dependent merely on the offerings of their congregations, with the consequent fluctuations in the amount available as stipends for the ministers. In Rivington a start was made early in 1693 by the substantial contribution of £100 made by Thomas Anderton, who seems to have been living at this time at School Brow, and who a year or two later purchased Great House from the Shaws of Heath Charnock. Thomas Anderton, by deed dated 16th January 1693 (n.s.), granted to John Bradley of Rivington, "scholemaster," George Brownlow of Rivington, yeoman, Thomas Waddington of Heath Charnock, yeoman, Jonathan Kershaw of Anglezargh, yeoman, and Roger Bromiley of Sharples, yeoman, a rent charge of £5, 10s. a-

<sup>1</sup> From the Bolton Parish Register we learn that "John Bradley of Rivington and Elizabeth Walker of the Parish of Standish" were married at Bolton by licence on the 28th Feb. 1682 (n.s.).

year issuing from certain fields, which rent charge grantor had purchased from John Breres, "now of Rivington aforesaid, then of Chorley in the said county, clerk," by deed dated 13th March 1683. This rent charge, however, was subject to redemption on the payment of £100, a right which seems to have been subsequently exercised by the Breres family in 1703. These five men, who may be said to have constituted the first Board of Trustees for the Nonconformist cause in Rivington, held this rent charge on trust to the following uses—viz., to pay the full sum of £5, 10s. to Thomas Anderton during the term of his life, and after his death to employ the same "either for the promotion of the Christian Faith, Protestant Religion, and Holinesse according to the Presbyterian persuasion, and for the promoting the knowledge of the principles and furtherance and advancement of the practice of Christianity and Godliness in and amongst the inhabitants and persons and their children inhabiting and being, or that shall hereafter from time to time inhabit and be in the Townes or Hamletts of Rivington aforesaid and of Anglezargh and Anderton in the said County, and for their spirituall good and comfort, or otherwise for promoting the temporall benefit profit and advantage of them some or any of them."<sup>1</sup> Provision was also made for the election of new trustees as the original trustees died.

In the will of George Brownlow of Rivington, dated 28th November 1697, is a curious ambiguously worded bequest of £50 to John Bradley (the schoolmaster), Thomas Waddington of Heath Charnock, Jonathan Kershaw of Anglezargh, and Roger Bromiley, his four fellow trustees, in trust that it "bee by them added and joyned to the stock of one hundred poundes

<sup>1</sup> Obligingly communicated by R. D. Darbishire, Esq.

given by Thomas Anderton of Rivington by one Indenture bearing date 16th January 1693, the said £50 and the yearly profit thereof to be in all things ordered and disposed for ever as the said £100 and the yearly profit thereof are directed and appointed to be bestowed." The general and rather vague expressions used in these two gifts point to the suspicion, which for some years after the passing of the Act of Toleration haunted the minds of the Nonconformists, that a return to the rigours of persecutions from which they had so long suffered was not only possible but probable. It will be seen, however, that there is no ambiguity as to the object of the benefactions, and that consequently there were no grounds for the "railing accusations" brought twenty years later by the Incumbent of Rivington Church to the effect that he and his predecessors had been robbed of these endowments by "the Dissenters."<sup>1</sup>

In 1703 the Nonconformists determined to build a proper place in which to meet, and they reared the structure, the quaint features of which are known to all visitors to Rivington. The interior of this interesting Chapel is as picturesque as its ivy-covered exterior, and though the old oak pews and pulpit are somewhat dilapidated they have an air of antiquity about them strongly in contrast to the usual aggressive modernness of a Nonconformist place of worship. Against the east wall is an exceptionally ugly monument to the memory of Thomas, Lord Willoughby, of Parham in Suffolk, and of Horwich, Adlington, and Shawe Place in County Lancaster, who died February 1691, aged eighty-nine, and to various other members of the same family.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See p. 77.

<sup>2</sup> See Marshall's "Genealogist," vol. iv., p. 34.



A year later than this the first formal trust deed was drawn up and the building vested in the hand of trustees. The document is made "between John Andrew, of Little Lever, in the County of Lancaster, Esq., on the one part, and the Right Honourable Hugh, Lord Willoughby, Baron of Parham; John Bradley, of Rivington, in the county aforesaid, schoolmaster; Thomas Waddington, of Heath Charnock, in the county aforesaid, gentleman; Alexander Waddington, son and heir-apparent of the said Thomas Waddington; John Brownlow, the eldest, of Rivington, aforesaid, yeoman; Richard Brownlow, son and heir-apparent of the said John Brownlow; James Worseley, of Rivington aforesaid, yeoman; John Morres, of Brookhouse, in Anglezargh, in the same county, yeoman; Thomas Bromiley of Sharples, in the same county, chapman; and Robert Anderton, son and heir-apparent of Thomas Anderton aforesaid, yeoman, on the other part," and recites that "Whereas a Chappel or Oratory of four bayes of building is lately erected and built by several Protestants dissenting from the Church of England upon a certain plot or parcel of ground lately severed and enclosed off and from a large close of ground situate and lying in Rivington aforesaid, containing 40 yards in length and 30 in breadth or thereabouts, being the inheritance of the said John Andrew, intended to be a place for Religious Worship only, and for an assembly and meeting of a particular Church or Congregation of Protestants dissenting from the Church of England, for the free exercise of their Divine Worship therein, and that the present and successive Minister and Ministers or Teachers of the said Congregation shall be Protestant Minister or Ministers of the Gospel dissenting from the Church of England, but qualified according



to an Act of Parliament made in the first year of our late Sovereign Lord and Lady William and Mary of England, &c., King and Queen, intituled an Act for exempting their Majesties' Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of England from the penalties of certain laws, or that shall be qualified according to some other Act of Parliament or Law that shall hereafter be made and constituted in favour and allowance of such dissenting Protestants."<sup>1</sup> The witnesses being "Ra. Ainsworth, Jas. Brownlow, and Peter Anderton."

The first of these witnesses was Ralph Ainsworth, the Minister of the Chapel. He had previously laboured in Cheshire.<sup>2</sup> From Whitley Chapel, where he was as early as 1691, he went to Bromborough in Wirral about the year 1700, and moved to Rivington a year or two later. He died early in April 1716, having made his will under date 27th March in that year. He speaks of lands which he held by lease at Burtonwood, near Warrington, and at Chorley, and land which his wife enjoyed at Farnworth. He mentions his sons Abraham,<sup>3</sup> Nathaniel, and Joshua, and his only daughter, Mary. The children all appear to have been young, probably under twenty-one years of age. During his ministry, several bequests came into the coffers of the congregation, particularly one from John Darbishire of Rivington, yeoman, who by his will, dated 7th February 1710 (n.s.), gave "£10 for and towards the maintenance of a Minister at the Chappell lately built in Rivington for a dissenting Minister to officiate in."

<sup>1</sup> "Souvenir of the Bi-centenary of Rivington Chapel" (1903), p. 38.

<sup>2</sup> Urwick's "Nonconformity in Cheshire," p. 86.

<sup>3</sup> "Abraham s. Ralph Ainsworth min. of ye Gospel living in Warrington and Sarah his wife born 8. baptized 10 Sept. 1696."—"Dukinfield Register." Information of Principal Gordon.

In a manuscript in Dr. Williams' library, being a list of the Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist Chapels in England, 1717 to 1729, prepared by Dr. John Evans,<sup>1</sup> colleague and successor of Dr. Daniel Williams, in the pastorate of the Presbyterian congregation in Hand Alley, Bishopsgate Street, London, mention occurs of "Rivington, near Chorley," as a Presbyterian Chapel. He states that there were 395 hearers at the chapel, of whom 51 were county voters.<sup>2</sup> This list was compiled to show the Government the importance of gaining the Nonconformist votes, as against the High Church ones, which were given to the Jacobite cause.

Mr. Ainsworth was succeeded by the Rev. John Turner, a noted character at this time in Lancashire. Mr. Turner was born in 1689,<sup>3</sup> and was chosen Minister of the Nonconformist Chapel at Preston in 1714. In the following year he, together with "Parson Wood" of Chowbent and the Rev. John Walker of Horwich, played an important part in repelling the Scots army in their advance into Lancashire under the Pretender.

The following account of his behaviour at this time is worthy of repetition<sup>4</sup> :—

"The Rev. John Turner, at that time Protestant Dissenting Minister there [Preston], was, upon the breaking out of the first rebellion, eminently serviceable to the cause of the reigning family. Firmly attached to the principles of the revolution,

<sup>1</sup> At the end of the Lancashire portion is noted, "Account sent to Mr. Tong, Jan<sup>r</sup>. 171<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>." The London recipient of this portion was the Rev. William Tong. The Rivington entry was subsequently brought up to date by mention of Turner's removal to Northwich, 1724. It mentions also that the minister received £6 from the Presbyterian Fund. Information kindly supplied by Principal Gordon.

<sup>2</sup> Information of Ernest G. Atkinson, Esq.

<sup>3</sup> "Lancashire Nonconformity," Nightingale, vol. i. p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., quoted from "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the Rev. William Turner of Wakefield," by the Rev. William Wood.

and the succession of the crown in the House of Hanover, he left his wife and infant child, and, with many of the younger part of his congregation, joined the army under General Willes, by whom they were, with great propriety, on account of their knowledge of the country, employed as scouts—to procure information and to observe the motions of the rebels. In one of these nocturnal excursions Mr. Turner had the good fortune to fall in with, and being of strong athletic constitution, to take prisoner and bring safe back with him to the camp, a confidential servant of one of the principal Roman Catholic gentry, who was going from his master with some important intelligence to the rebels. For this service he had the public thanks of General Willes.”

Mr. Turner left the scene of his martial exploits in 1717, and moved to Rivington, where he remained for seven years. He finally settled in Knutsford, and died there in 1737.

About this time some more benefactions to the Chapel were made, especially one of £10 for “the maintenance of a preaching Minister at the Chapell or Meeting-Place for Dissenters in Rivington,” which occurs in the will of James Worsley of Rivington, yeoman,<sup>1</sup> dated 5th October 1720, and proved a month later.

According to the Rev. Peter Walkden’s Diary,<sup>2</sup> the Rev. John Mayer is mentioned as being Minister of Rivington in 1725. Mr. Nightingale suggests that this is a transcriber’s error, and that the name should be Walker, probably a son of the Rev. John Walker mentioned on p. 96.

In the Northowram Register, under date 8th February 1731 (n.s.), is the entry of “Mr. Samll. Astley, Preacher at

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix, p. 185.      <sup>2</sup> P. 24, quoted by Nightingale, vol. iii. p. 93.

Rivington, was bur : at Bolton." Nothing more is known of this Minister ; he may have been the same as a Mr. Astley who was for some time minister at Chowbent.

After Mr. Astley came Abraham Dawson, eldest son of Joseph Dawson, born about 1713. M.A. of Glasgow University 1733. He was minister of Rivington Chapel until 1741. He ultimately conformed, and was instituted to the Rectory of Ringsfield, Co. Suffolk, in 1754. He died Oct. 3, 1789, aged 76.<sup>1</sup>

In 1738 the trustees of the Chapel seem to have desired to place their funds out on some good security ; consequently we find among the Rivington Muniments a mortgage dated 15th December 1738, by which they advance the sum of £240 at the rate of 4½ per cent. interest on the security of the Great House Farm, consisting of the house and twenty-four acres of land "of the great measure, or eight yards to the rod." The document is of interest, as we get a list of the Trustees of the Chapel at this date. The names are :—

Hugh, Lord Willoughby.  
John Andrews of Bolton, Esq.  
Alex. Walker of the same, gent.  
John Walker the elder, of Heath Charnock, clerk.  
John Walker of the same, chapman, his son.  
James Walton of Horwich, gent.  
Alexander Shaw of Anderton, chapman.  
George Brownlow of Anderton, yeoman.  
Richard Brownlow of Rivington, yeoman.  
Thomas Brownlow of the same, yeoman.  
John Nightingale of the same, yeoman.  
John Brownlow of Mooredge in Rivington, yeoman.  
Moses Cocker of the same, yeoman.  
Peter Anderton of Rivington, carpenter.  
Roger Leicester of Anglizargh, yeoman.  
Henry Ainsworth of Anderton, yeoman.

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<sup>1</sup> Kindly communicated by Principal Gordon.



On the 3rd August 1743, the Trustees lent a further £60, and on the 15th December 1756, yet another sum of £70, making £410 in all.

The Rev. Samuel Bourn,<sup>1</sup> whose ministry at Rivington dates from 1742, was the son of the Rev. Samuel Bourn, of Chorley, and grandson of the Rev. Samuel Bourn, of Bolton. He was born about 1714, received his early training at Stand, pursuing his studies afterwards at Glasgow. Some years after this he was ordained by the Rev. Mr. Hardy of Horwich, and several others. He lived partly at Rivington and partly at Bolton, his Rivington house being at Leicester Mills, which his biographer describes as a "most delightful vale, a mile from the Chapel."<sup>2</sup> He left Rivington in 1754 for Norwich, where he became colleague to the celebrated Dr. Taylor. In 1775 Mr. Bourn resigned his charge through infirmity, and retired to a village near Norwich. Here his faculties decayed, his "vigorous mind faded away into childish imbecility." He died in 1796, at the advanced age of eighty-two years, and was buried in the graveyard belonging to the Octagon Chapel at Norwich. It is said that he was "eminent as a writer, as a lively, fervent preacher, and for his indefatigable labours, especially with respect to the younger part of the congregation."

It was about this time that the views known as Arian, Socinian, or Unitarian began to gain adherents throughout England, not only among Nonconformists but also in the

<sup>1</sup> The rest of this account is mainly drawn from Nightingale's "History of Non-conformity in Lancashire," vol. iii. p. 93, *et seq.*, amended by reference to the "Bi-Centenary Souvenir."

<sup>2</sup> "Memoirs of the Rev. Samuel Bourn," by Dr. Toulmin, p. 124 (quoted by Nightingale).



Established Church, and Rivington did not escape the influence of the new teaching. It is probable that these views began to make themselves felt under Mr. Bourn, who, when he left Lancashire, found a congenial spirit in his colleague, Dr. Taylor, at Norwich. Dr. Taylor's writings were widely read at this time, and did much to spread these views. Certainly, in 1760, the new teaching had gained many adherents, for we find four of the members of the congregation — Hugh Makinson, Moses Cocker, Thomas Anderton, and John Ashworth<sup>1</sup>—dissociating themselves on account of the growth of Socinian teaching at Rivington, and forming a separate cause, thus founding what ultimately became the Lee Lane Congregational Church in Horwich.

The Rev. Wm. Gaskell is the next known minister. He entered Dr. Rotheram's Academy in 1745, but the date of his settlement at Rivington is not known.<sup>2</sup> The old Baptismal Register goes no further back than 1770, and this shows that he was then minister. He removed to Tunley, near Wigan, in 1776, and died in 1781. The Rev. Thomas Rawlins followed in 1778. He was the son<sup>3</sup> of the Rev. John Rawlins, some time minister at Hoghton Tower. He entered the Daventry Academy in 1772, and removed to the Warrington Academy in 1774. On May 16, 1785, at the Leigh Parish Church, he married Margaret Pilkington, who is said to have belonged to the Rivington Pilkingtons. Mr. Rawlins removed to Wharton in 1782 or '83, where he died in 1787. He was buried in the

<sup>1</sup> "Bi-Centenary Souvenir," p. 50; and Nightingale, vol. iii. p. 110.

<sup>2</sup> Born at Wigan. M.A. of Glasgow 1750. Died March 22, 1777, aged 49.

<sup>3</sup> Born August 20, 1756.

graveyard of Chowbent Chapel, and on his tombstone is the following inscription :—

TO THE MEMORY OF THE  
REV. THOMAS RAWLINS  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE 15TH OF JANUARY 1787  
IN THE 31ST YEAR OF HIS AGE

He left one son, John Rawlins, who was born March 7, 1786, and died at Derby in 1847. The Rev. - Nathaniel Hibbert first signs the Register as Minister at Rivington in 1784. He died on the 30th of June 1819, at the age of fifty-seven years, and was buried in the chapel graveyard. His tombstone states that he was minister thirty-six years. His wife, Frances, died April 10, 1830, aged sixty-eight years. The Rev. James Taylor comes next. He was trained at Manchester New College, York (1814-19), and settled at Rivington in 1820. He removed to Dob Lane Chapel, Newton-Heath, in 1832, where he died in 1862. The Register gives the name of the Rev. John Jenkins, A.M., who must have been a frequent supply at Rivington during the years 1832-34, but was not a regular minister here. Mr. Taylor was followed by the Rev. George Henry Wells, M.A., in 1834. He resigned in 1837. The Rev. William Rowlinson was here from 1837-40; and in 1841 the Rev. Edward Robinson Dimmock followed, but remained only one year. He had previously been at Warrington. He died in 1867. The Rev. Charles William Robberds, son of the Rev. John Gooch Robberds, of Cross Street, Manchester, and through his mother descended from the Rev. John Turner already named, was at Rivington from 1842-43. Mr. Robberds was followed in 1843 by the Rev.

Cubit Boardman Hubbard. He was born at Wacton Hall, Norfolk, on the 21st of April 1779, was educated at Homerton, settled at Rivington in 1843, and died on the 11th of April 1854, in his seventy-fifth year. He lies buried in the Rivington chapel-yard, and it is from his tombstone the foregoing particulars respecting him have been gathered.

The Rev. John Samuel Gilbert succeeded him in 1855. His tombstone, which is also in the chapel-yard, states that he was for twenty-five years "faithful minister of this chapel," died at Altrincham, November 20, 1885, and that he was "an earnest student, a conscientious teacher, and a constant friend." The present minister, the Rev. Samuel Thompson, was trained at the Home Missionary Board and Owens College; entered on his labours here in 1881. Close by the Chapel is a Sunday School built by public subscription, and opened by the late Mr. George Dawson of Birmingham. A little higher up the slope towards the Pike is the Chapel house<sup>1</sup> or manse, for which, according to a deed dated July 31, 1786, Robert Andrews, Esq., of Rivington, conveyed land to Abraham Crompton, the younger, of Chorley, and others. There is also in connection with the Chapel a good library, containing some hundreds of volumes, commenced about the year 1821, the Rev. James Taylor being the principal mover in the matter.

#### THE CHAPEL AND MONUMENTS

There is little to be said about the structure itself. Age has dealt kindly with it and rendered quite picturesque what originally must have been an utterly plain, barn-like building.

<sup>1</sup> In the garden of the Manse is an old sundial on the shaft of which is the date 1696.

The only feature of interest is the little bell-cote at the north end, which breaks the line of roof and gives some character to its otherwise featureless exterior. The ivy, too, has covered the building externally, and inside the old oak pews give an air of antiquity which relieves the general monotony.

Besides the ugly Willoughby monument already referred to, there are the following inscriptions now in the Chapel.

On the Chapel wall, near the north door, is a small and cracked slate tablet in a wooden frame, with the following inscription rudely inscribed upon it :—

Y<sup>e</sup> Reu<sup>d</sup> Samvele  
Neutone driven out  
y<sup>e</sup> Chvrch on Barthol  
Sonday  
1662

This stone<sup>1</sup> was found about sixty years ago by some workmen when demolishing a wall in Rivington, and it was broken before its interest was discovered. A member of the Chapel, however, heard of it, and secured the pieces and had them put together in the present frame. The lettering is so rude that it is difficult to be certain of its date, but there seems no reason to doubt that it is a genuine contemporary record of the past. It may, of course, be later, but there is little to guide one to a decision.

<sup>1</sup> "Bi-Centenary Souvenir," p. 36.

On a copper plate on the pew door facing the pulpit is the following inscription :—

*The Right Honourable*  
 HUGH LORD WILLOUGHBY  
 F.R.S.  
 OF PARHAM OBIT. 1765

The only monumental inscriptions are the two following.  
 On the east wall on a marble tablet is :—

In memory of / THOMAS LOWE of Rivington / who died April  
 21st 1836 / aged 74 years. / and of ALICE his wife, / who died January  
 15th 1808 / aged 43 years. / Their children died / THOMAS, Sept. 4th  
 1806, aged 2 years / ANN May 15th 1858 aged 67 years / BENNETT  
 Feb. 17th 1873 aged 86 years / MARY Feb. 24th 1879 aged 82 years /  
 RACHEL, Aug. 5th 1884, aged 90 years / ALICE, Oct. 31st 1886, aged  
 85 years : /

Over the door is the following :—

In / memory of / their beloved uncle / ROBERT ANDREWS / of  
 Rivington Esquire / who died July 4th 1858 / aged 73 years / and of /  
 JOHN ANDREWS / his brother / who died December 22nd 1865 / in  
 the 80th year of his age / This monument / is erected by / their sur-  
 viving nieces. /





## CHAPTER IV

### THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

UNTIL the suppression of the Chantries in 1547 the priests serving at these side altars seem frequently to have combined the education of the youth of the parish with their spiritual duties. As a rule, however, the Chantry priest occupied rather a lowly station, consequently the education imparted was probably of a very elementary character.

One of the outcomes of the Reformation in England was the establishment of grammar schools throughout the length and breadth of the land,<sup>1</sup> and these, though frequently credited to either King Edward or Queen Elizabeth, were usually the result of private munificence. Rivington was no exception. Nominally THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH, it was in reality built and endowed by James Pilkington, Bishop of Durham.<sup>2</sup>

Bishop Pilkington obtained Letters Patent from Queen Elizabeth in 1566 which not only constituted the Charter of the Grammar School, but, as stated on p. 62, also gave to

<sup>1</sup> There were several Pre-Reformation Grammar Schools in Lancashire, which must not be overlooked—*e.g.*, Lancaster, Blackburn, Manchester, and others, but by far the larger majority were founded after the reign of Henry VIII.

<sup>2</sup> See an account of Bishop Pilkington, p. 36. He was born about 1518; B.A. of Cambridge (St. John's), 1538; M.A. 1542; S.T.B. 1551; Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, 1559; Bishop of Durham, 1560; died, 1578.

Rivington and Anglezargh, with the hamlets of Folds and Helmslow, all the rights possessed by a properly constituted parish. This Charter also appointed the first six Governors: Thomas Asshawe, George Pilkington, Esquires, Thomas Shawe, gentleman, Richard Rivington, John Green, and Ralph Whittle, and laid down lines for the filling of vacancies in the body of Governors when these occurred. It also provided for the choice of a Schoolmaster and Usher, the former of whom was to be a man who shall have spent "three years at least in one of the Universities, and have profited well in learning and be of honest conditions."

Another provision in the Charter was that the Governors should make "wholesome Statutes, Decrees, and Ordinances in writing concerning and touching the government, ordering, ruling, and direction of the Schoolmaster and Usher and of the Scholars of the aforesaid Free School." The first Statutes<sup>1</sup> appear to have been drawn up by Bishop Pilkington himself, and are full of interest. They give us a wonderfully detailed picture of the working of a grammar school at this time. In reading them through one cannot but be impressed with the labour which must have been required to draw them up, and the immense care which the Bishop bestowed upon them.

The first portion deals with the election of the "Spokesman" or Chairman of the Court of Governors, with his oath and a description of his duties. Then follow the Statutes relating to the election of Governors and a copy of the Governor's oath. That this office was not intended to be a

<sup>1</sup> For full text of Statutes, see "Statutes of Rivington School," edited by Septimus Tebay, M.A., Headmaster. Printed in Preston, 1864.

sinecure is shown by the fact that all the Governors were required to examine the scholars each term, and, in conjunction with the Master, decide which scholars were to be promoted to higher forms.

Not content with merely commending the industrious, the Governors are instructed to exhort and encourage "the meaner sort to ply their books that they may likewise be exalted the next term; but those that be dulards, unthrifits, runaways, negligent, alehouse haunters, gadars in the night, truants, gamesters," and so forth, "shall they see corrected with the rod as the faults shall deserve, if the offender be under sixteen years old." There is a quaint suggestion that the Lancashire lads of 1566 were not more ruly than those of to-day, in the provision that any scholar who is "too sturdy to obey and take these corrections shall be banished without any further bearing with him."

Next follows the chapter on the duty of the scholars, which includes a beautiful, though perhaps to modern ideas rather a tedious daily office. It argues a somewhat innocent faith on the part of the compiler in the docility and conscientiousness of the average boy to suppose that, on a cold winter morning or night, he would in the privacy of his own chamber go steadily through all the prayers and Psalms here set down. The last clause especially must have tried the long-suffering boy when he found at the end of his Liturgy the statement, "but it is not sufficient only to use these prayers evening and morning, but every one shall learn more such out of the Psalms and other godly prayer-books being not popish."

From spiritual matters the Statutes turn to more mundane affairs, and deal with the behaviour of the boys. After the

recital of the set prayers the scholars are to "dress their bed, comb their head, wash their hands"—apparently washing more could not be expected—"and see their apparel be cleanly." They must carry no weapon "except a penknife," and their "chief pastime" is to be archery, but gambling thereat is to be avoided. "At meat they shall not be full of talk, but rather hear what their elders and betters say; if they be asked a question they shall reverently take off their cap and answer with as few words as may be; they shall not eat greedily nor lye on the table slovenly."

It is evident that scholars coming from a distance and boarding in the farm-houses are contemplated, as many provisions are made for them. For instance, it is laid down that "though there be but one scholar in a house, yet he shall on . . . long winter nights . . . read somewhat of the Scriptures or other godly book to the rest of the household where he is lodged." This picturesque touch conjures up in the mind the vision of a little lad sitting in the ingle-nook of a farm-steading up on the slopes of the Pike, reading by the light of the fire to the old yeoman and his wife as they nod in their armchairs after the toil of the day is done.

The rents, lands, and common seal next occupy the attention. The possibility of the School not being in a position to pay its way is contemplated, and provision is made in such case to charge fees at the rate of fourpence per term from those scholars born in the "towns named in the Corporation or three next towns adjoining, and taught under the Usher," and eightpence a quarter from those taught by the Master. "Strangers born farther off" are to pay sixpence and one shilling respectively.

The status of a Curate at this time is indicated in the provision that if the funds available for distribution between the Master and the Usher be not more than £20 nothing is to be paid to the Curate of the Church "except he be Usher also, which," however, the Statute continues, "is not to be wished." But when any payment is made to the Curate out of surplus funds he is to "teach diligently a writing or a song school" . . . "for necessary it is to have some teacher both of song and writing," so "if the Curate will not, or else can not teach to sing or to write," then the Governors are to hire some one else to do it. Clearly it was not expected that the local Curate would be a highly accomplished person.

A supply of books, such as dictionaries for the use of the scholars, is provided for, and the Master and Usher are instructed to collect them after school each day, and "see that none use to write in them, pull out leaves, nor carry them from the School."

Full regulations as to the choosing of both Master and Usher follow. These are too lengthy to quote in detail, but it is worthy of mention that the Master is required to be of "the age of twenty-four years at least," and have been at "one or both Universities," and "have taken degrees in the Schools." Religious tests were, of course, included, and the Master was to be of those who "love pure religion and be haters of popery and superstition, which seek the hope of salvation and sound doctrine only out of the Holy Bible."

The duty of the Master and Usher is next defined, and it is laid down that they shall both be "in the School daily, ready to teach at or before six of the clock in the morning ; and



from Michaelmas untill Easter they shall be there likewise ready daily by sunrise." Morning school closed at eleven, and afternoon school was from one o'clock until six during the summer terms, and until sunset during the rest of the year. The holidays allowed to masters and scholars were ten days at Midsummer, ten days at Michaelmas, sixteen at Christmas, and twelve at Easter.

After this follows a short liturgy for the opening of school each day, as well as for the closing of both morning and afternoon school.

The sole idea in the minds of schoolmasters at this time and for many years after was the teaching of Latin and Greek, so it is not surprising to find that all the scholars are required to "speak Latin diligently in all their talk and places,"—a regulation which extended even to the junior scholars,—"so much as is possible." That the School was not intended to be elementary in its character is shown by the rule that "none be admitted into the School but that can read," except under special circumstances. The list of classical authors by which "the young wits" are to be exercised is truly appalling, including Erasmus for the very young, and Terence, Ovid, and Horace for the more advanced. "But weekly, besides this, they must write some epistles or verses, which they may more easily do if they use often to turn their Lectures into English and then into Latin again by other words to the same meaning, sometimes in verses and sometimes in prose; and after turning Greek into Latin and Latin into Greek, and changing one kind of verses into another, and verses into prose and prose into verse, observing the propriety of the phrase, the purest Latin words, and making the sentences full!"

For spiritual instruction the scholars are taken through a course of "the Short Catechism in English in the Common Book," . . . "Mr. Nowell's or Calvin's Catechism taught in Calvin's Institutions," and are to be diligently practised in the New Testament, "especially the Epistles to Timothy."

In conclusion, it is provided that "every year once on that day in which it shall please God to take James Pilkington, now Bishop of Durham, out of this wretched life to a better with Himself, the scholars shall have liberty to play, so that they exercise themselves in making verses, orations, or declamations severally in praising God that moved him and others to prepare this School for the bringing up of youth and profit of His Church."

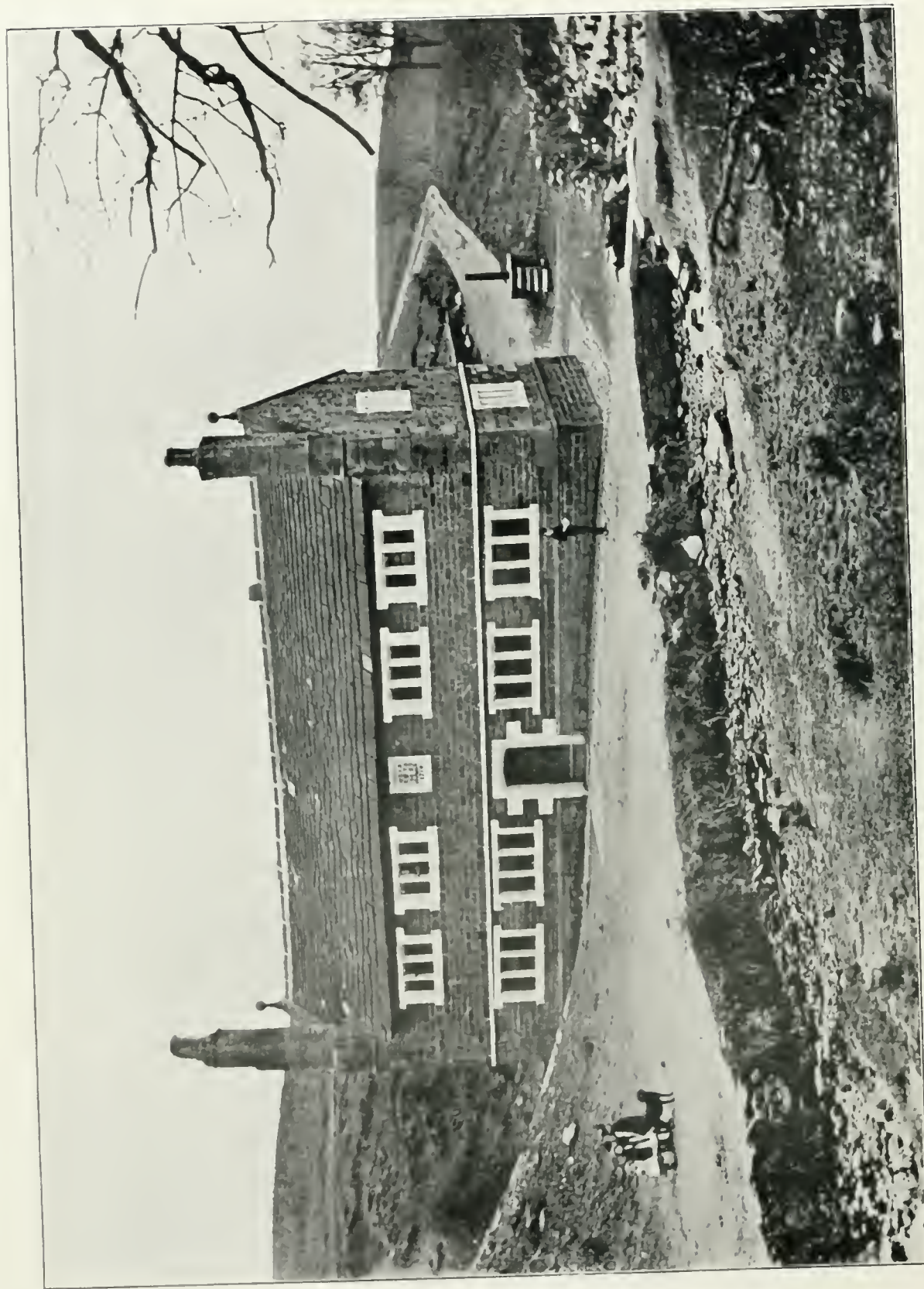
Although the Charter was obtained from the Queen in 1566, it was not until eight years later that the Bishop appears to have completed his arrangements for the endowment, though the first schoolmaster was appointed on the 10th July 1572.<sup>1</sup> The first Governors appear to have begun their duties in August 1574, and a month later Bishop Pilkington confirmed the endowments to them and their successors.

Most of the property owned by the School at the beginning was located in Durham, excepting a small annual rent received from Higher and Lower Knowles and Grut Farms in Rivington, and a house known as Jolly's in Heath Charnock.

A very interesting list of the scholars for the year 1575 is

<sup>1</sup> Tebay's Statutes, p. 85.





THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, (BEFORE RECENT ALTERATIONS.)



to be seen printed in Tebay's Statutes. The number of the names is surprising, being no less than 114, and among them are representatives of some important Lancashire families. Thus Edward Norris of Speke had two sons being educated at this time, while Sir Richard Sherburn of Stoneyhurst, Robert Dewhurst of Dewhurst, Robert Charnock of Astley, John Adlington of Adlington, and Thomas Standish of Duxbury, all had boys there. The rest of the names show that the school was much used by the sons of the inhabitants of the surrounding villages.

This is not the place for a detailed history of the School, but it is greatly to be hoped that some day one of its *alumni* will take the subject seriously in hand, and give to the world an exhaustive history of this interesting old Grammar School.

As was so often the case, the School had hardly been fairly launched before expensive litigation began which greatly hindered its work, so that in 1612 the number of scholars was reduced to about thirty. In 1626, the Schoolhouse having fallen into decay, was repaired at a considerable cost; and in 1639 another lawsuit began which dragged on for a period of twenty-one years, and though the Governors were eventually successful, "the School was utterly ruined and deserted both by masters and scholars, for want of maintenance."

In 1714 the School was rebuilt, out of surplus funds. The accompanying picture, which is from an old photograph, gives a good idea of the appearance of the building at this stage. The initials on the stone plate which is still to be seen over the doorway stand for the names of the six Governors at this



time, viz.: William Breres, Alexander Waddington, John Morris, James Anderton, Thomas Bromiley, and Richard Brownlow. The curious erection which still stands in the playground, and which is seen in the picture, appears to have been intended as a combined mounting-block and sun-dial, the sun-dial shaft acting as a means for steadying the mounting horseman.

In 1789 a house for the Master was built near the School on a piece of land known as the Goosehey, adjoining Mill Hill, a portion of which had already been occupied by the Nonconformist Chapel.

About the year 1827 some of the land in Durham which had formed part of the original endowment was sold, and Letters Patent<sup>1</sup> obtained empowering the Governors to purchase an estate in the township of Wheelton, near Rivington, for £3000, leaving lands unsold belonging to the School under the annual value of £230. The entire income of the School in 1827 was £308, 9s. 8d.

The School continued to do good work throughout the nineteenth century, and in 1873 it was united with the Blackrod Grammar School, founded in 1568 under the will of John Holme, citizen and weaver of London. Subsequently the old school building was rebuilt and enlarged, and is now used as an Elementary School, while a much more ambitious structure was erected at the Horwich end of the township. This was opened in 1882, and has since been carried on with success.

<sup>1</sup> See Chetham Soc. Trans., vol. xix. p. 21, note 4; and Tebay's Statutes, p. 52.

The following list of Masters is drawn mainly from Tebay's Statutes:—

1572 Robert Dewhurst. <sup>1</sup>	1629 ——— Shaw.
1581 William Hallstead.	1633 William Duckworth. <sup>5</sup>
1589 Zachary Saunders.	1635 John Crooke.
1592 Edwin Brindle. <sup>2</sup>	1642 John Broadhurst. <sup>6</sup>
1608 John Ainsworth. <sup>3</sup>	1646 Henry Fielden.
1617 George Rudhall. <sup>4</sup>	1654 Henry Fielden. <sup>7</sup>
1625 Henry Bedard.	1660 John Breres. <sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Robert Dewhurst, in his will dated 27th March 1588, and proved at Chester in July, mentions his lease of the Rectory of Barrow, in Cheshire. He makes bequests to Robert and James Dewhurst, sons, and Anne and Grace, daughters of his brother William, Robert Dewhurst, son of his late brother Roger, his brother John Dewhurst, and his sister Anne Grubbett[?] He leaves 40s. to the poor of Blackburn, and appoints his nephew Robert, son of his brother William, his executor. In his Inventory he is described as "Mr. Robert Dewhurst, M<sup>r</sup> of Arts, layt of Rivington, deceased."

<sup>2</sup> Edwin Brindle in his will dated 23rd December 1608, and proved a month later, mentions his brothers Alexander and Hugh, and a lease which he had of John Green's house from Mr. Chisnall. In his Inventory he is described as "Edwyn Brindle, M<sup>r</sup> in Arts, late of Rivington, and Schoolm<sup>r</sup> of the Kinge's Ma<sup>tie</sup>'s free Grammar Schole of Rivington." Mention is also made of his goods "in the studie in schola de Rivington."

<sup>3</sup> Expelled in 1616 for forging letters of attorney and drawing rents which had been neglected by the Governors whilst at variance *inter se*.

<sup>4</sup> Oliver Heywood, in his diary, speaks of the excellent teaching he got under Mr. Rudhall, which, however, must have been at some other school, as Mr. Rudhall left Rivington in 1624 and Oliver Heywood was only born in 1629. Mr. Rudhall may have gone to Blackrod School: he seems to have lived at Anderton. At all events administration of the goods of George Rudall of Anderton was granted to his widow Anne, 2nd October 1657.

<sup>5</sup> Probably identical with the William Duckworth, son of Richard of Rishton, Co. Lanc., who matriculated at All Souls College, Oxford, 18th November 1631, aged nineteen; B.A. 10th July 1633. If this is so, he must have been under the age limit fixed by Bishop Pilkington.

<sup>6</sup> Signs the Protestation at Rivington 23rd February 1641-42 as "litterat." See p. 45.

<sup>7</sup> In thus repeating this name Tebay has been followed: presumably there were two masters of the same name.

<sup>8</sup> See p. 42.

1669 John Bradley. <sup>1</sup>	1801 Thomas Jenner Hogg.
1715 — Bentley.	1805 William Heaton. <sup>4</sup>
1717 — Pierpoint.	1815 Joseph Whitaker. <sup>5</sup>
1727 John Norcross.	1857 Septimus Tebay.
1765 John Norcross. <sup>2</sup>	1882 George Squire.
1789 Richard Hargreaves.	1894 Robert Thorley Johnson.
1799 Joseph Coward. <sup>3</sup>	1904 Ernest John Bonnor.

<sup>1</sup> See an interesting letter from this master printed in Hampson's "History of Rivington," p. 150. He seems to have been a leader among the Nonconformists ; see p. 98 *et seq.* According to his own statement made in a suit relating to the will of the Rev. Samuel Newton, dated 22nd June 1682, John Bradley was then forty years of age.

<sup>2</sup> According to Hampson, p. 49, the Rev. John Norcross, who was also curate of Horwich, died 21st June 1788, in his sixtieth year. Hampson prints an abstract of his will.

<sup>3</sup> No doubt the same as the Joseph Coward, son of John of Kendal, who matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, 2nd July 1789, aged nineteen ; B.A. 1793 ; M.A. 1796. Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.

<sup>4</sup> Subsequently Curate of Rivington ; see p. 81.

<sup>5</sup> Son of Jonathan Whitaker, of Bradford, Co. York. Matriculated Queen's College, Oxford, 12th June 1804, aged eighteen ; B.A. 1809 ; M.A. 1813. Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.



## CHAPTER V

### OLD HOUSES AND FAMILIES

A FEATURE of Rivington and the neighbourhood is that every farm and cottage has its distinctive name, much more so than is the case in Cheshire at all events, and many of these names take our minds back to a remote past. The following are a few examples: Great House, School Brow, Sheephouse Farm, Brownhill, Mooredge, Street, Newhall, Waterhey, Grut, Old Knowles', Ward's, Jepson's, Crosse's, Bradley's, Pilkington's, Simms', Gills', Moses Cocker's, Allen's, Latham's, Old Isaac's, Old Will's, Old George's, and so forth.

It may not be without interest if we take a few of these individually.

In dealing with the old houses of Rivington one naturally turns first to the Hall, or the Old Hall, as it is sometimes called, to distinguish it from the New Hall, now known as the Newhall Farm. No doubt a house stood on the site now occupied at a very early date; if one cared to hazard a guess, it may be that this position was chosen as far back as the time when the representative of the dispossessing Norman took up his abode in Rivington, perhaps leaving the descendant of the

English Thane to live on in his own homestead, the Great House, while he himself built his Manor House a little higher up the slope towards the Pike.

According to Mr. Whitaker,<sup>1</sup> "the Old Hall . . . which was built of wood and plaster in the form of a quadrangle, enclosing in its centre a square court, and approached by an open gateway, was pulled down in 1774 by the then owner, who built in its stead the present Hall." It was no doubt constructed on the mediæval plan so well known in Lancashire, good examples of which are to be seen at Speke, Wardley, and Agecroft.

The house which Robert Andrews built in 1774 has not much to commend it beyond a certain air of substantial comfort which the architecture of that period seems to give. As already noted, the colour of the brick with which the body of the house is built is a pleasing shade of red, a fact which is rather emphasised by the contrast with the later brick used in the south wing added more recently.

Like so many of the houses in Rivington, the Hall possesses a water-mill which formerly was used to churn the butter, but now has fallen into disuse. It is interesting to notice how general is the use of water-power on the slopes of the Pike.

In spite of Mr. Whitaker's statement it is evident that only a portion of the earlier house was pulled down in 1774, as on the north-east side there is part of an older stone building still standing; it seems also that the timber and plaster work only adorned the south-west front, at least such is the

<sup>1</sup> Introduction to "Statutes of Rivington School," published in 1837 by the Rev. Joseph Whitaker, M.A.







INTERIOR OF THE HALL BARN.

tradition. Over one of the doors leading into the yard is the inscription,—



representing the initials of William Breres, who in 1694 no doubt made some structural alteration to this portion of the house. A few years later, in 1700, still further building took place, and the date-stone with the initials of William Breres and Martha, his wife, is reproduced on p. 49. The stables were also partly rebuilt in 1713, and a further addition made in 1732, the latter by John Andrews and Abigail, his wife, and their artistically carved initials and date-stones will also be seen on pp. 49 and 51.

As will be remembered,<sup>1</sup> Robert Pilkington was evidently busy enlarging the amenities of the house in 1478, when he contracted with Adam Holden to build him "a Hall and a Crosse Chamber," to include "two great windowes, each xx foote broade." Unfortunately for some things this interesting old house is no more, but at the back of the Hall still stands an exceptionally fine specimen of a mediæval barn. It is a building of seven bays, 106 feet long and 25½ feet wide in the body, and 41 feet including the "outshots." Though not quite as early in its construction as the barn at Great House, shortly to be mentioned, the massive timbers are evidently of great age, and the characteristic feature of the

<sup>1</sup> See p. 22.

"crucks" shows its antiquity. This has now been repaired, and having had aisles added to it, at the same time being re-roofed with grey flags, it is now possible to see a complete restoration of an early mediæval barn in all its details.<sup>1</sup>

#### GREAT HOUSE.

Just as the very simplicity of the adjective in New College, Oxford, is proof of the antiquity of the foundation, so the name of this farm takes our minds back into the dim past. The day when this homestead was the great house of the township, if not of the district, must be indeed remote. Both *gréat* and *hus* are simple Anglo-Saxon words, which have perhaps scarcely changed even their pronunciation, at least as used on the countryside, during the last twelve hundred years.

The early history of this farm is obscure, but there are indications that it was the original holding of the Broadhursts of Rivington, mention of whom is found as early as the beginning of the thirteenth century.<sup>2</sup> From them it descended through a family of the name of Bullough to the Shaws of Heath Charnock. The Shaws sold it in 1699<sup>3</sup> to Thomas Anderton of Rivington, and after several alienations it was purchased recently by Mr. W. H. Lever.

The house as it now stands is the work of at least three periods. The south end is clearly the oldest, and probably dates from the middle of the seventeenth century. The next bay was no doubt added when the Andertons possessed it, while the portion at the north end is evidently the "house newly erected

<sup>1</sup> See views after restoration, pp. xii. and xvi.

<sup>2</sup> Towneley MSS., 1933, 2049, 2067, 1770, &c. Rec. Soc., vol. xxxii. p. 33.

<sup>3</sup> Rivington Muniments.





GREAT HOUSE FARM (FROM THE WEST).









INTERIOR OF GREAT HOUSE BARN

at the Great House farm," leased in 1767 by the Rev. John Milne of Nottingham, clerk, and others, to John Norcross of Rivington, the Master of the Grammar School.

By far the most interesting part of the homestead, however, is the barn standing at the north of the house. This has been built at different times, but two bays are of great antiquity, as is shown by the primitive type of "crucks" employed. A comparison with those used in the Old Hall barn show that they do not depend as do the latter on a second tie beam in order to strengthen the structure. In the opinion of those best qualified to judge this portion of the barn is regarded as amongst the oldest structures of the kind in Lancashire.

A short wing, with a gable facing south, has been added at a later date, probably about the end of the sixteenth century ; while the building was extended in a westerly direction by Thomas Anderton in 1702, as is evidenced by the door-plate.



The occurrence of the four initials is curious, and is quite out of the common, though there are several other examples in Rivington. They stand for Thomas Anderton and Alice, his

wife, and their son and heir Robert. The upper A represents the family name. The lands that went with the farm amounted originally to about 24 Cheshire acres, or slightly over 50 Statute acres. It is curious to notice that the large Cheshire measure seems to have always been used in Rivington down to quite recent times in preference to either the Lancashire or the Statute.<sup>1</sup> Among the fields are the following names: The Old Lime and the Marled fields, the Great and Little Meadows (all of which are now under the waters of the Reservoir), the Barnfield, the Bankfield, the Broadfield, and the Custance Croft.

Like so many of our old farm-houses, the site was evidently chosen with an eye to defence. The land falls away abruptly both to the south and west, and in the old days a second stream ran round the north side of the homestead, so that it was protected on three sides.

#### NEW HALL.

As stated already this house bore its present name certainly as far back as 1544.<sup>2</sup> From the context in the document in which this reference occurs it seems as if originally the New Hall farm had included a good deal of the land sloping down from it towards the bottom of the valley and spreading over what is now the village green. This is shown by the fact that in the demise of this holding by Richard Pilkington to his son George, he excepts "the Church and Churchyard and the water and the Milne and Milne Hill," as though these

<sup>1</sup> The Statute, Lancashire, and Cheshire acres contain respectively 4840, 7840, and 10,240 square yards.

<sup>2</sup> Towneley MSS., No. 1724.





NEW HALL FARM (FROM THE SOUTH).



had at one time been included in the farm. This grant, moreover, is from Richard Pilkington to his eldest son shortly after his marriage. It is perhaps rather bold to base a theory on such slight grounds, but these two facts taken together rather suggest that this may be the same holding as that which Robert Pilkington granted to his eldest son Richard on his beginning married life in 1336, as related on p. 12, particularly as it is clear from the boundaries mentioned in this early grant that the site of the New Hall was included within it. If this is so it looks as if the name New Hall might date from 1336. However, whether this be so or not, the date 1544 is a sufficiently ancient one to make the house worthy of our notice.

In the survey of the property made in 1610<sup>1</sup> the following entry relating to this house occurs: "Mrs. Katherine Pilkington, a fair Messuage with necessary outhousing called the New Hall," including 14 acres and 1 rood (about 30 acres Statute) of land, and valued at £12 per annum. Katherine Pilkington was the unmarried daughter of George Pilkington of Rivington who died in 1597.

The south end of the house, containing a fine large chimney stack and a spiral stone staircase, is possibly as old as the beginning of the sixteenth century, while the internal oak and plaster partitions look even older. On the east side of the house, over a loft now used for hens, on a portion of the building which is clearly later than the south end, is the date 1642. As already stated, the Rev. Samuel Newton occupied this farm for some years before his death in 1682.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix, p. 159.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 75.

A rather gruesome story is told in the village to the effect that this spiral staircase is so inconvenient that when a member of the household is approaching dissolution in the bedroom on the first floor, he or she is brought down to the parlour, as it is impossible to carry a coffin down the stairs!

#### BROWN HILL.

Of Brown Hill little can be said. There is evidently a reference to it in the earliest known grant of land in Rivington about the year 1250, at least mention is made of a William of Brownhill<sup>1</sup> in a connection that leaves little room for doubt that he lived on the site of this upland farmstead. There is nothing in any of the later documents to throw light on the history of the house, which now has little of interest to commend it. On a dated stone in the building are the initials I and A below the letter N, and the date 1734. The initials probably refer to John Nightingale and his wife Anne or Alice. John Nightingale was one of the trustees of the Nonconformist Chapel in 1737.

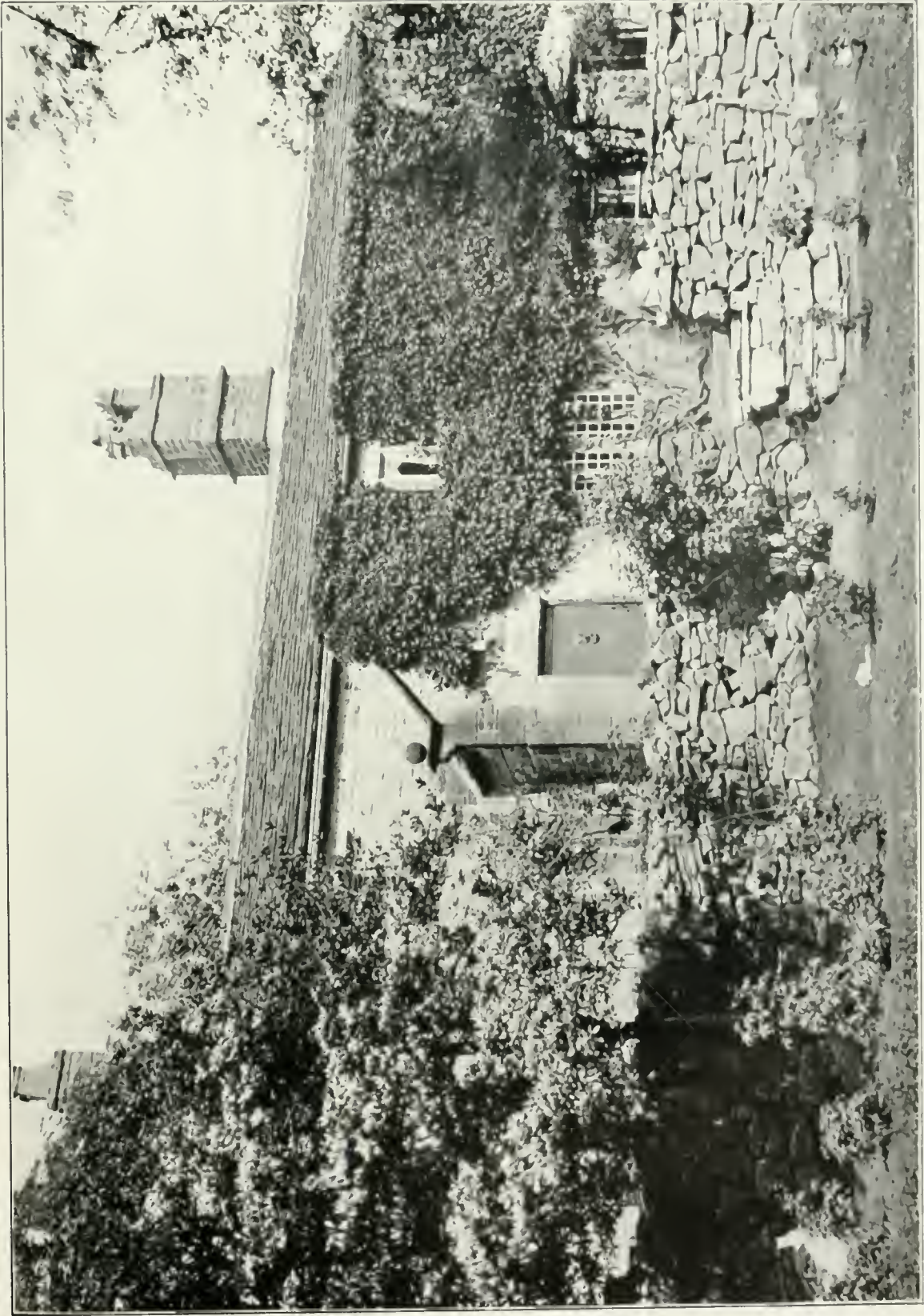
#### SCHOOL BROW.

This picturesquely situated house, though without any special feature of architectural interest, has a history which goes back for at least three centuries.<sup>2</sup> It was held on a lease

<sup>1</sup> See p. 5.

<sup>2</sup> The first reference is in the original lease of the School-house to Robert Dewhurst the Schoolmaster in 1581, when the school is spoken of as standing in a close





SCHOOL, BROW.





for lives in 1610<sup>1</sup> by James Anderton and his wife Janet, together with some 25 statute acres of land, at an annual rental of fifteen shillings and eightpence and the payment of six hens at Christmas to the Lord of the Manor. Further than this the tenant was required to do six days' reaping in the fields of his landlord during harvest without any pay. He had, however, the privilege of putting thirty sheep on the common pasture.

James Anderton appears to have been of a somewhat crabbed disposition, as we find him in 1620<sup>2</sup> quarrelling with the Governors of the Grammar School and trying to stop a footpath which led from the Great House across his lands past his house to the School. This path was evidently much frequented by the scholars and had been used for many years, so it is not surprising that he lost his case, or rather that he came to an agreement with the Governors, conceding them all that they claimed on their undertaking to withdraw the action, promising that neither they nor their scholars shall "trouble any other part of the said James Anderton's tenement, but as the known and usual footways do lie." This agreement is an interesting one for the field names it contains.

It is not known who succeeded James Anderton, but a Thomas Anderton, presumably his grandson, rebuilt the house in 1695, and, like so many of his contemporaries in Rivington, marked the event by placing his initials, together with

of land "in the possession of one Robert Anderton," no doubt the father of the James Anderton referred to above.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix, p. 158.

<sup>2</sup> Tebay's Statutes of Rivington School, p. 77.

his wife's (Alice) and his eldest son's (Robert) over the doorway.



This is the same Thomas Anderton who a few years later acquired the Great House and rebuilt a portion of the barn.

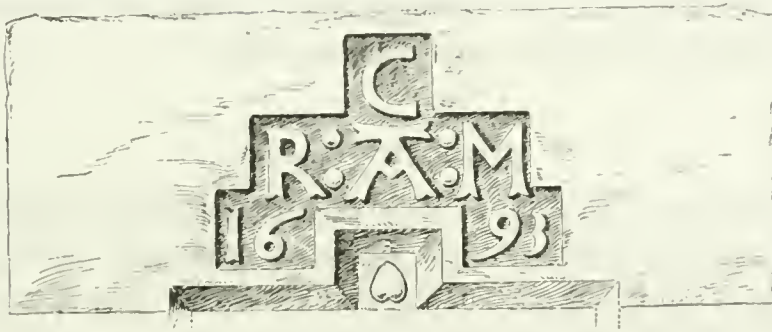
#### MOSES COCKER'S.

The foregoing have been examples of houses that have taken their names from natural features or some outward circumstance, but we now turn to another class, namely, those that are known by the name of some former tenant. Mr. Seebohm, in his "English Village Community,"<sup>1</sup> points out how in the Middle Ages the name of a tenant was often handed down from one generation to another as describing a certain farm or holding which had once been identified with the name long after all connection between the two had ceased.

Perhaps the most remarkable example of the vitality of

<sup>1</sup> "The English Village Community," by Frederic Seebohm (3rd Edition), p. 77.

this custom in Rivington is to be seen in the case of "Old Will's," which, if the contention put forward on page 8 is accepted, is an example of such a name lasting for at least 600 years. In the case of Moses Cocker's, however, the name, shortened now to "Old Moses," only goes back 150 years, although the house was occupied by the family of Cocker at least as early as 1693. In this year Robert Cocker built the present house and had his initials and those of his wife and his son, Moses, graven over his entrance door.



Robert Cocker's name occurs as early as 1663,<sup>1</sup> and from the Parish Register it appears that he died in 1715, when his son Moses succeeded him. Moses was a staunch Nonconformist, and was one of the "four pious men"<sup>2</sup> who, about 1760, being dissatisfied with the Unitarian teaching in the Chapel, seceded and founded the cause which ultimately developed into Lee Chapel.

<sup>1</sup> See *Hearth Tax*, p. 47. There may have been two Robert Cockers as well as two of the name of Moses, as it is nearly impossible for a householder of 1663 to have a son living in 1774.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 107.

This Moses Cocker, or a son of the same name, seems to have been somewhat eccentric, and the story is still told how he once invented a flying machine and then desired leave from Squire Andrews to use the Tower on the Pike as a jumping-off place. Squire Andrews, however, had more consideration for his eccentric tenant's limbs than to grant such a request, and told him he could jump off the roof of his own house if he wished, provided he directed his flight towards the barton. After much grumbling Moses consented, and when he alighted on that somewhat unsavoury but eminently useful mound which is customary in the centre of a farmyard, he realised the wisdom of the Squire's orders.

#### AINSWORTH'S FARM.

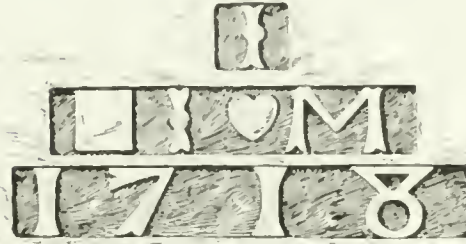
This house appears to have been occupied by a family of this name certainly as early as 1595.<sup>1</sup> Although the name is found in Rivington during the eighteenth century, they seem to have left this farm before 1687, when in the list of contributors to the Poor Tax<sup>2</sup> of Rivington, the house is rated simply as Ainsworth Tenement. In 1698 it was occupied by a family of Isherwood, and over the doorway, though now hidden by the more recently added porch and also by successive layers of whitewash, is still to be seen the initial I over the letters I and R and the date 1698. These initials probably stand for James Isherwood and Rebecca his wife. James Isherwood died in 1700 or 1701, leaving four children under age, named John, James, Alice, and Ellen. It was

<sup>1</sup> See p. 32.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix, p. 179.



probably this elder son John who built the barn in 1718, as shown on the accompanying inscription—



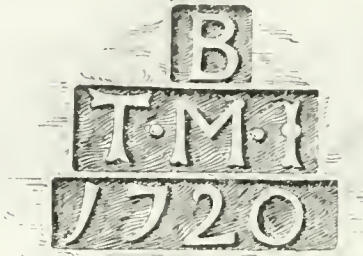
the letter M no doubt representing the name of his wife, probably either Martha or Mary.

#### WARD'S FARM.

As already pointed out,<sup>1</sup> men of the name of Jepson, Ward, Gill, and Simm, were tenants here as far back as 1595, while some of them date from even an earlier time. For instance, there are indications in the Rivington Muni-ments and the Towneley Manuscripts that in the case of the family of Simm we have a shortening—quite a common feature in English names—from Simson. Now, at a very early date indeed, we find in the Charters mention of Roger, son of Simon, or, as the Latin has it, *Rogerus filius Simonis*. About the time of this grant Simon del Knoll was flourishing, and for some little time thereafter we find a family of Simson in Rivington, and it is not impossible that we have thus in the family of Simm the descendants of the Knolls—one of the early freeholders in Rivington.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 34.

At the house which is still known as Ward's Farm, on a little outhouse in the garden, is the following inscribed stone :—



It is not certain to whom this refers, there being no data now existing to tell us who was the tenant or owner here in 1720; but it probably represents the names of Thomas Brownlow and Mary, his wife, and an eldest son, John, since George Brownlow in his will, dated 28th November 1697, refers to his lease of a moiety of this farm and leaves it and other property to his nephews, nieces, and cousins.

#### HIGHER AND LOWER KNOWLES.

These farms, no doubt, stand on the site of homesteads once occupied by the early Rivington freeholders, the Knolls and the Gamelsleghs, but both these families died out so early that it is difficult now to trace their exact connection with Rivington, and they take us back to such remote times that they fail to rouse interest in the mind of the ordinary reader, however much they may attract the antiquary.

In some way this property seems to have descended to the Shaws of Heath Charnock, who certainly had an interest in it

at a comparatively early date. Jepson's farm appears also to have been once a part of this holding.

It is very difficult sometimes, in dealing with the history of land in the Middle Ages, to quite reconcile the different interests mentioned in the various transfers which took place. For instance, one meets with cases where two distinct individuals are apparently selling the same land to two different purchasers. The explanation is probably that one is selling the freehold, and the other the leasehold. Complications of this kind no doubt explain the apparently contradictory facts known about these two farms. In the endowment deed of the Grammar School, dated 6th September 1574,<sup>1</sup> Bishop Pilkington undertakes to purchase from one Christopher Anderton, lands from which certain rents are to issue, and subsequent events show these lands to have been Higher and Lower Knowles and Grut farms, while from the Rentals we learn that the transaction was duly completed and that the amounts were two rents of 17s. 6d. each issuing from Higher and Lower Knowles and one of 5s. from Grut, and yet, in 1583,<sup>2</sup> we find a Thurstan Anderton obtaining these very lands from the Crown, and in the grant they are described as "late parcel of the possessions of the late Chantry of St. Nicholas in Standish." One naturally wonders how they had come into the possession of this Chantry. It is possible that they may have formed part of the augmentation of the endowment given to it by Robert Pilkington, the priest serving there, who died in 1498,<sup>3</sup> as related on his monumental brass formerly in the church of Standish.

<sup>1</sup> Tebay's Statutes, p. 58.

<sup>2</sup> Patent Rolls, 13 June, 25 Elizabeth. MS. Record Office.

<sup>3</sup> See Raine's "History of the Chantries" (Chetham Soc., vol. lx.), p. 176.

## HIGHER, MIDDLE, AND LOWER DERBISHIRES.

These farms, which enshrine an honoured name, also originally belonged, partially if not altogether, to the Shaws of Heath Charnock, and were in the holding of the family of Derbyshire certainly as early as 1673, if not in 1642.

For the rest it seems probable that Old Isaac's is so called after Isaac Gill, the tenant at the end of the seventeenth century; Bradley's, after a family who lived there during the same century; while Sweetlove's records the dwelling-place of Edmund Sweetlove, who was usher of the Grammar School from 1688 to 1733. Latham's is an echo of the time when George Latham of Irlam claimed to be joint-lord of Rivington with the Pilkingtons,<sup>1</sup> and "bulded an unreasonable number of cottages" on his "several land theare." Crosse's records the name of a tenant about two hundred years ago, who married a daughter of Thomas Breres of Rivington Hall; while Morris and Allen seem to have flourished during the eighteenth century.

Who first gave the name to Old George's is not known, and in like manner Old Kate's memory has died out. In concluding, mention may be made of Mooredge, which, for some centuries, was the home of the Brownlows—a name still remembered in the village.

<sup>1</sup> P. 31. At the same time it may be mentioned that a family of the name of Latham, masons by trade, were living in Rivington at the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries, and they may have occupied this house and given it their name. These are probably the men who cut the various door-plates at this period.

It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to apologise to the reader for these few notes on the old farmhouses, but the spirit that regards only castles and parks as suitable subjects for historical research is not dead, and so perhaps one should say something in self-defence.

Fifty years ago history was regarded merely as a means of handing on the records of the acts of kings and emperors and chronicling the doings of great generals in war and bloodshed. To-day a better understanding is abroad, and the study of court intrigues is left alone while men ponder on the silent growth of a nation, and students delve into the past to see how our laws grew and our customs were formed.

We are slowly beginning to realise that every village on our countryside is a kingdom in miniature, and that each homestead may enshrine a story—if we but trouble to unearth it—as full of lessons for those who will read them as the history of a mighty castle or a king's palace.





## CHAPTER VI

### PLACE NAMES AND FIELD NAMES

THE study of place names has of recent years attracted considerable attention, and students of language have found in it much food for thought. There are few subjects, however, more beset with dangers to the inquirer. The glaring blunders and absurdly fanciful explanations of would-be etymologists have become a by-word, and it is no uncommon thing to find otherwise intelligent people suggesting that the derivation of some simple Anglo-Saxon or Celtic place name is to be found in Arabic or Chinese!

Canon Isaac Taylor, who has done so much for this branch of knowledge, quotes an amusing instance of the derivation of the English name Lambeth, which in reality means "the lamb landing-place," from the Mongolian word *lama*, meaning a chief priest, and *beth*, a Semitic word for a house, thus interpreting the place where the Primate lives as "the house of the chief priest!"

"The fundamental principle to be borne in mind," writes Canon Taylor,<sup>1</sup> "is an axiom which alone makes the study

<sup>1</sup> "Words and Places," p. 311, 4th edition.

of place names possible, and this axiom asserts that local names are in no case mere arbitrary sounds. They are always ancient *words* or fragments of ancient words—each of them, in short, constituting the earliest chapter in the local history of the *places* to which they severally refer.”

The first step to be taken is to find the earliest existing form of the name, then to decide to which of the two or three languages possible it belongs, and finally to test the interpretation by applying it locally and finding whether the meaning is borne out by local conditions.

Let us first take RIVINGTON itself. The earliest form discovered so far is that which appears in the Great Inquest of 1212,<sup>1</sup> where it is spelt *Ruhwinton*. In the Towneley Manuscript we find the following variants, *circa* 1250, *Rothington* and *Rincton*; <sup>2</sup> 1280, *Rowinton*, *Rowenton*, and *Roynton*. This last form appears most frequently during the early period, while later on the spelling *Rovington* became common, and it was not until the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries that the modern style was generally adopted.

The first step is thus taken with comparative ease, but unfortunately it does not appear to lead up very conclusively to the second step. Mr. Henry Harrison, whose scholarly work on “The Place Names of the Liverpool District” is well known, writes to me that he is inclined to derive it from *Roun* or *Rowan-ton*, meaning the town of the mountain ash. Mr. Farrer, on the other hand, thinks it more likely that the

<sup>1</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xlviii, p. 67.

<sup>2</sup> This variation is possibly a mis-copy: Towneley's transcripts are not always to be relied on for the spelling of personal and place names. Mr. Farrer points out that a Fine dated 1202 gives the forms *Rawinton* and *Rowinten*.

derivation is to be found in *rūh* (O.E.) rough, and *winton*, either from *wint* (O.E.) winds, or from *winn* (O.E.) labour, and *tūn*, a farm steading.

We do not gain much by putting the question of these derivations to the test of local application. The mountain ash certainly does grow in Rivington, and it may at an early date have been the prevailing tree, but no evidence either one way or the other is forthcoming, while as to the second derivation all that can be said is that the village itself is not specially exposed to high winds. The earliest forms of Rivington Pike, however, *Rounpik* (c. 1280), and *Riuinpik* (c. 1300), rather tend to confirm Mr. Harrison's theory. It has been frequently pointed out by writers how strong the Norse element is in this part of Lancashire, both in the folk speech and place names, and if we accept Mr. Harrison's derivation we have another example of this, rowan being essentially a Norse word from the Old Norse *reynir*, the Swedish *rönn*, and the Danish *røn*, *rønne*. It is worthy of note, also, that the rowan tree in Norse mythology holds a high place as a protection against evil spirits and witches. Any one who has had any experience of our local folk-lore knows that a rowan-tree cudgel is the only weapon with which the devil can be successfully encountered. Canon Atkinson, in his "Cleveland Dialect,"<sup>1</sup> says that in his district "the 2nd of May, St. Helen's day, is Rowan-tree day, or Rowan-tree witch day, and on that day even yet, with some, the method of proceeding is for members of the household or family" to gather branches of the tree, with certain rites, for the purpose of protecting the house and family

<sup>1</sup> See p. 417.

from witching. It would be interesting to know whether any traces of such a custom still linger on the slopes of the Pike.

ANGLEZARGH (*Andelevesarewe*, 1202 ;<sup>1</sup> *Anlauesargh*, 1224) is a name evidently akin to Goosnargh, Skelmersargh, Ainsargh, Brettargh, and Grimsargh, and is said to contain in its last syllable a Norse word meaning a heathen temple.<sup>2</sup> This has been disputed, but it is certainly curious that in two of the above, at least, the first portion of the name includes that of a Norse deity, an argument, however, which loses much of its force owing to the fact that names of deities were often taken as personal names by the early settlers. The name modernised would be *Anlaf's-argh*.

HORWICH (*Horewyche*, 1335), probably means the "grey dwellings or village," from Old English *hár*, grey or white, *wíc*, a dwelling.

HELMSHAWS (*Helmeshawes*, 1566), another of the four villages or hamlets in the Chapelry of Rivington, is now apparently represented by the farms called Hempshaws, lying on the north of the road from Rivington to Belmont. It is possible that it is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *helm*, meaning top or summit, and *shaw*, the thicket or copse. Mr.

<sup>1</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xxxix. pp. 11 and 45.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Harrison writes to me : "*Argh*, or *hargh*, was certainly long thought to represent the Old Norse *hörgr*=Old English *hearg*, a heathen place of worship or temple ; but, although this signification is doubtless true as to, say, the Harrow, near London, some comparatively recent topographical researches by North Lancashire antiquaries seem to make it quite clear that the second element in place names such as Grimsargh and Goosnargh is a land-name, apparently meaning ploughed or *harroved* ground ; cf. Mid.-Dan. *harge*, Dut. *hark*, Swed. *harka*—a rake or harrow—all allied to Old Norse *herfi*, Dan. *harv*—a harrow. English *harrow*, Middle English *harwe*, is from an unrecorded Old English *hearg(e)*."

Harrison suggests that it is from *Helm*, a personal name, while the medial *s*, instead of being the initial letter of the second syllable, may be the genitive singular of *Helm*, in which case the name would mean Helm's Haws or Fields (O.E. *haga*).

FOLDS (*Foldes*, 1566). It is curious to notice that the word "fold" as a component part of place names is of very common occurrence in certain portions of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cheshire, while it is rarely to be met with in other parts of the country. Examples will readily suggest themselves to any one at all acquainted with the neighbourhood. The district round Bolton is peculiarly rich in occurrences of the word—*e.g.*, Brownlow Fold, Grundy Fold, Horrock's Fold, Yate Fold, Horrobin Fold, and many others.

The area throughout which this word occurs is so circumscribed that the question suggests itself, whether it may not be possible that one of the invading tribes in the dim past of English history, either Angle or Norse, brought this special use of the word with them from their home across the North Sea, and applied it in their new surroundings? A friend has recently told the writer that he has counted over 300 examples of the word in the hill district of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and that it only appears to occur within certain clearly defined limits.

The word appears to be derived from the O.E. *fald* or *falod*, meaning a cattle pen.

HORDERN STOOPS (*hadran* and *harderan*, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries). Mr. Harrison suggests that this may be from the Anglo-Saxon *heorde*, a herd, and *hyrne*, a nook or corner. It is possible that it was the spot to which the cattle



were driven from the lower slopes in times of danger. Stoop is from the Icelandic *staup*, a knobby lump, though it has come in Lancashire to mean simply a post or stock.

HOARSTONES BROW (*Arestans*, thirteenth century) means the "greystones brow," from the Anglo-Saxon *hár*, white or grey, or the Icelandic *hárr*, with the same meaning.

WINTERHILL (*Wintyrheld* and *Wintyrhold*, thirteenth century), possibly "windy hold." In a hill country so obviously used as a refuge and covered with pre-historic earthworks, it is highly probable that this lofty spot may have been used as a stronghold, to which the natives repaired during times of danger, and whither they drove their cattle. It certainly *is* windy, but the objection may very properly be urged that few mountain-tops escape this distinction. It is conceivable that it may be connected with an early word from which "winter" comes, connected with "wet," and that the reference is therefore to the numerous springs on its slopes. Mr. Harrison suggests "the winter slope," from the Middle English *held(e)*, a slope; O.E. *hieldan*, to bend, to incline. He mentions as an equivalent, *winter dún*, which has been conjectured to mean a hill on which stock were kept in winter.

DOUGLAS (*Doggles*, 1369<sup>1</sup>) is a Celtic word meaning the "black brook." The Gaelic form is *dubh-glaise*. It is curious to notice that the stream dividing Wheelton and Anglezargh is actually called Black brook, and was so called certainly as early as the twelfth century.<sup>2</sup>

YARROW (*Yarwe*, 1350<sup>3</sup>) is a common name for streams all

<sup>1</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xxx. p. 203.

<sup>2</sup> Farrer's "Lancashire Pipe Rolls," p. 376.

<sup>3</sup> Towneley MSS.

over Europe, and is a corruption of the Celtic word *garw*, meaning rough. It is found in the Garry, the Yare, and in such an unlikely form as the Garonne in France.

CLOUGH, a word which we find in its present form occurring in many of the early Towneley Manuscripts, is, according to Skeat, connected with the word *cleave*. He defines it as "a hollow in a hill-side," and states that it is allied to the Icelandic *klofi*.

DEAN, from an Anglo-Saxon word (*denu*) meaning a deep wooded valley.

While dealing with local names it may not be without interest to mention a few of the surrounding villages and township names, and suggest some derivations.

BLACKROD (*Blakerode*, 1200-1201<sup>1</sup>). No doubt the black "ridding" or clearing from the moor. The syllable *rod* is another form of the word *royd*, found in Huntroyd, Ecroyd, &c.

STREET<sup>2</sup> is an interesting name, as it certainly points back to the time when the Romans had a station at Blackrod, and no doubt records the fact that one of those wonderful military roads, which crossed Britain like a spider's web, once ran past this house. It is curious to think that this spot, now so quiet and secluded, must often have rung with the tramp of armed men as the Roman soldiery moved from one outpost to another, nearly two thousand years ago.

ADLINGTON (*Adeluenton*, 1202<sup>3</sup>). This has an English

<sup>1</sup> Pipe Roll, 3 John (Farrer's Lanc. Pipe Roll, p. 127).

<sup>2</sup> It is one of the very few examples of a Latin word which has come down to us directly from the Roman occupation of Britain, being from the Latin *stratum*, a street.

<sup>3</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xxxix. p. 18.

look, and may be the *ton* or town of *Ethelwin* or some similar name. It is possible it may mean the *ton* of the *ætheling* or prince.

CHORLEY (*Cherlegh*, 1251<sup>1</sup>), apparently the "meadow of the husbandman," from the Early English *ceorl*, a churl or husbandman; and *leáh*, meadow or pasture, primitively a clearing in the forest.

CHARNOCK (*Chernoc*, 1189-94<sup>2</sup>). It is possible that in the second syllable we have the Celtic word *knock*, meaning a hill. The prefix "Heath" is used to distinguish this township from Charnock Richard. The township is often called Charnock Goggard in early documents, a family of the name of Goggard owning land here at an early date.

LONGWORTH (*Longeworth*<sup>3</sup>), "the long farmstead," from the Anglo-Saxon word, *weorthig*, farmstead, enclosure.

BELMONT, apparently a modern name for Sharples Higher End, given within the last hundred years, just as Waterloo and Southport, near Liverpool, are recent additions to Lancashire place names.

BOLTON (*Boeltune*, 1170, *Bothelton*, 1201<sup>4</sup>), either from *bott* and *tún*, two Anglo-Saxon words meaning the *ton*, or enclosure, containing a *bott* or house (other forms of the same word are to be seen in Bootle, Harbottle, &c.), or from the Old Norse *ból*, a farm; *cf.* Bolton in Derbyshire (Domesday

<sup>1</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xxxix. p. 112.

<sup>2</sup> Lanc. Pipe Roll, Farrer, p. 378.

<sup>3</sup> Rec. Soc., vol. xlv. p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> Lanc. Pipe Rolls, pp. 407 and 151.

Book, *Boletune*). Mr. Harrison writes : *Bott*, *bold*, seems to have denoted a very large house, a mansion, or palace, one at any rate large enough to keep a steward (*cf.* O.E. *bott-weard*), so *bott-tún* (Bolton) would rather indicate the enclosed land belonging to the *bott* or *bold*.



## CHAPTER VII

### THE RIVINGTON RESERVOIRS<sup>1</sup>

EARLY in the nineteenth century the utterly inadequate character of the water supply of the growing town of Liverpool was engaging the attention of the Town Council, and numerous schemes were suggested for meeting the difficulty. As a result of a prolonged agitation for a better supply, the Council in 1846 engaged three engineers—Mr. Hawksley, Mr. Cubitt, and Mr. Rendel—to investigate and report upon the various schemes that were proposed. Suggestions to draw the water supply from Bala Lake, the River Alt, and other sources, were discarded, and a scheme prepared by Mr. Hawksley, afterwards known as the Rivington Pike scheme, was adopted. Mr. Hawksley proposed to impound the waters of the rivers Douglas and Roddlesworth, and form a reservoir in the valley between Rivington Pike and Heath Charnock. In the following year the Corporation obtained the necessary Parliamentary powers, but there was an active minority in Liverpool very much against the scheme, and strenuous opposition was offered to the carrying out of the work by those who considered that wells sunk in the sandstone rock within or close to the Borough would afford an ample supply of water. The result was that the work of construction was delayed, and although the Act of Parliament was

<sup>1</sup> The greater portion of the information in this chapter is drawn from the first part of the "Report of the Water Engineer on the Liverpool Water works," published in 1900.



obtained in the year 1847 it was not until August 1857 that the water from Rivington was first delivered in Liverpool. It is curious to hear that when Rivington water was first supplied to the consumers, the greatest dissatisfaction was expressed on account of its brown colour, due to the presence of peat and the decomposition of vegetable organic matters left in the valleys forming the sides and bottoms of the reservoirs. These difficulties were eventually overcome, and the new supply delivered in unexceptionable condition in the matter of colour as well as in other respects, to the general satisfaction of the people of Liverpool; and it is said that they grew so accustomed to the bright Rivington water, derived from the millstone grit formation, that when forty years later the water from Vrynwy was first delivered many of the consumers complained of its insipidness and brown colour.

In 1860 the growth of the population of Liverpool and the increasing demand for water rendered necessary the construction of a new reservoir on the River Roddlesworth at Tockholes, six miles to the north of Rivington village. This reservoir afforded additional storage to impound the rainfall of wet years, but did not add to the area of the watershed. It was found in 1867 that further supplies were again needed, and the compensation water, which had hitherto been discharged into the River Roddlesworth, was purchased, and power obtained to construct another reservoir at Rivington in the Yarrow Valley, to the east of Anglezark, and two new filter-beds. This work was begun in 1868, and finished in August 1875, and the new reservoir filled with water in February 1877.

The Rivington watershed comprises about 10,000 acres of land, and the elevation ranges from 450 to 1500 feet. The principal streams that supply the water, as already stated, are

the Roddlesworth, Rake, Yarrow, and Douglas, and the rainfall is collected into reservoirs formed by earth embankments carried across the natural valleys. The area and contents of each reservoir and the principal dimensions of the embankments are given in the subjoined table :—

NAME OF RESERVOIR.	Area in Acres.	Contents in Million Gallons.	Embankments.	
			Length in Feet.	Greatest Depth in Feet.
Roddlesworth Upper .	26.0	178.0	1190	69
„ Lower .	16.4	99.7	590	81
Rake . . .	13.8	79.9	1500	84
Anglezark . . .	191.6	1019.0	3550	46
Chorley . . .	10.1	48.3	990	39
Rivington . . .	275.0	1841.0	6280	61
Yarrow . . .	65.0	839.2	2894	103
Filter-beds . . .	5.82	...	...	...

Total contents, 4,105,000,000 gallons.

The position of the Rivington, Yarrow, and a portion of the Anglezark reservoirs will be seen in the map at the beginning of this book. The other group, the Roddlesworth and Rakebrook reservoirs, are connected with the Anglezark by a canal  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and 21 feet wide. The total surface area at the overflow level is 598 acres, and their total length measured along the top water lines is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The length of the combined embankments is over 3 miles. The highest embankment is that of the Yarrow reservoir, which is 103 feet above the bottom of the valley. The deepest puddle trench is also at this reservoir. Here the trench had to be carried down to a depth of 167 feet below the natural surface before a solid foundation could be obtained; the total height from the bottom of the foundation to the top of the dam being 257 feet.

A description of the method of construction adopted at

the Yarrow Reservoir will apply, practically, to all the Rivington Reservoirs.

A suitable site for the embankment having been selected, a trench was excavated on the centre line of the intended work and carried down to the solid rock right across the valley. This was filled with clay deposited in layers of 9 inches, and carefully puddled so as to produce a homogeneous watertight material. This clay wall, having reached the natural surface of the ground, was continued through the embankment, which was also built in thin layers thoroughly rammed and consolidated on both sides of the clay centre. Before commencing the erection of the embankment all peat and unsound material were stripped from the site. The inner or water slopes of the embankment have been built to an angle of 3 to 1, and outer slopes to an angle of 2 to 1.

The impermeability of the dam depends upon the wall of puddled clay in the heart of the dam tied into the solid rock at the bottom and sides of the valley. The clay wall has been carried up to a batter on each side of 1 inch to every foot vertical, the thickness at the top being 6 feet. The inner slopes of the bank are protected by 15-inch pitching, consisting of the millstone grit of the neighbourhood, laid on a bed of broken stone. The outer slopes have been soiled and grassed over. The outlet from the Yarrow Reservoir is by a tunnel driven through the rock at the side of the valley, and not through the embankment itself as in the earlier reservoirs. The tunnel and valve shaft are both lined with blue bricks.

The bye-wash or overflow is 100 feet wide. The weir and apron and steps are formed of heavy ashlar closely jointed. The pitching forming the bye-wash is of millstone

grit, neatly dressed and soundly laid on asphalt concrete. The wing walls are of squared rubble, neatly and closely laid.

All the reservoir embankments and tunnel outlets at Rivington are sound and watertight, and their excellent condition to-day is evidence of the skill and care exerted in their construction. The waste weirs or bye-washes have proved to be of ample capacity for dealing with the largest floods that have been experienced.

All the water for the supply of Liverpool has to pass into and through the Lower Rivington Reservoir. From this reservoir the water is drawn off for filtration through sand filters. The original filtration works consisted of six beds, having a total area at the surface of the sand of 182,982 square feet, and two open filtered water tanks, capable of holding 8,384,000 gallons. In 1870-75 two additional filter-beds were constructed. The area of these two beds is 71,302 square feet, making the total filtering area of the eight beds 254,284 square feet. The filtering material consists of 2 feet 6 inches of sand laid on the top of layers of gravel varying in size from 4 inches diameter to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch diameter. The average rate of filtration per acre of sand is 2,240,920 gallons per day, or  $8\frac{1}{4}$  cubic feet per square foot per day.



## APPENDIX

GRANT FROM SIMON RIVINGTON (c. 1250).

(Towneley MS., 1818.)<sup>1</sup>

*Sciunt, etc.*—"Symon de Rincton" grants to "William de Burnehill" and his heirs for his homage and service all that part of grantor's land in "Rincton" within these bounds, viz., beginning at "le Henchecroft at the highway [*ad altam viam*] following Wennescroft-clough to the Wytesfeldeshende and so following the Rushey-lache [*Rischilach*] to the deep marsh at the Tunsted-hend and so following a straight line drawn to the Hoarstones [*Arestans*] at Hordernsclough-head [*Hadrammesclonghheued*] and so following a straight line to the Ormeshead [*Armishheued*] and so following "le Barke" to "Tochefrichmer" and so on to Backstondean-head [*Backestanedenneheued*] and so following the Dean [*le Denne*] to the before-named force [*forch*].<sup>2</sup> Rendering annually 2 pence at Christmas.

Witnesses : Hugh de Norrays, Peter de Bremeshill, Thomas le Parret, Roger de Braddeschauhe, Hugh de Lagkeworth, Elias de Tanker [? Tonge], William de Braddeschouhe.

<sup>1</sup> It must be borne in mind that, though Towneley was a careful copyist as a rule, he undoubtedly made serious errors from time to time, especially in family and place names with which he was not familiar. Too much stress, therefore, must not be laid on isolated examples of the curious spelling of names.

<sup>2</sup> There is evidently an omission here, as this "forch" is not mentioned before. If this is a correct translation of "forch," it is an interesting example of the Norse word for waterfall. It would of course refer to the waterfall in the Dean wood. At the same time it may represent the M.E. word "forth," meaning a ford.



## GRANT FROM ROGER RIVINGTON (c. 1250).

(Towneley MS., 1974.)

*Sciant, etc.*—"Roger de Rothington" grants to Hugh, son of William Worthington [*de Wrthinton*], for his homage and service all that part of grantor's land of Winterhold within these bounds, viz., beginning at "Wenniscroft" and following Wenniscroft to Baxtondene [*Bashtondene*] and so following Baxtondene to the *Marsh* [?] and so following the division between the mere and Baxstondene<sup>1</sup> to the bounds of the Forest and the metes of "Rothington" and thence along the bounds to Winterhold Pike and so following the highest ridge [*sequendo altitudinem del egge*] to Romesclough-head and so following Romesclough, descending the same to the lower end of the "smaie grappes" and so straight to the said Wenniscroft-clough. Rendering annually one pair of white gloves.

Witnesses : Elias de Tongue, Thomas le Pierpoint, Roger de Brodshae, Adam de Lever, John son of Maurice, Alexander de Pilkington, and others.

## GRANT FROM NEL SON OF GEOFFREY BRUN (c. 1270).

(Rivington Muniments.)

*Omnibus, etc.*—Nel son of Geoffrey de Brun and Isabel his wife quit claim to Cecily formerly wife of Roger of Worsley [*de Workeley*] all the lands in "Rowynton" called "Wyntirheld."

Witnesses : Sir John de Birum, Geoffrey de Bracebrigg, Geoffrey de Chaterton, Richard de Worsley, Jordan de Crompton, Alexander the Clerk, and others.

<sup>1</sup> The words in italics are only probable—the original text is corrupt.

## GRANT FROM CECILY ROYNTON (c. 1280).

(Rivington Muniments.)

Cecily daughter of "William de Roynton" and formerly wife of Roger de Worsley [*Wrkydelle*] in her widowhood grants to Adam son of Robert son of Dorant for his homage and service all that fourth part of Knollshaw [*Cnolleshalh*] &c. within these bounds: Beginning at "Kaldewell" below the house of William following under the bank as far as the Querin-stanes-clif and so following Querin-stanes-clif into Frid-broc and so ascending to the highway and so following the highway beyond Rounpik as far as "Stondandestan," thence going to the head of "Cringal-broc-heuyd," and so descending Cringal-broc as far as the foot of the cliff, and so following the cliff as far as Kaldewell, which is the first mete. And also all that croft which is called Church land [*terra ecclesiastica*] which was given in exchange for the assart of Matilda, to wit, three acres of land, &c. With common of pasture, &c. and all easements belonging to the vill of Rivington, and with quittance of pannage of all the swine of all the men of the said land and tenements wheresoever they may abide [*manserint*]. Rendering yearly one pair of white gloves worth one half-penny, or one half-penny at the Feast of St. Peter.

Witnesses: Thomas le Pierpoint [*P'pund*], John de Hulton, Adam de Lever, Elias de Thoge [*? Tonge*], Roger de Bolton [*Bothelton*], William de Worthynton, Henry de Asshawe [*Hashogh*], Robert del Knoll, Robert de Lostock, William the Clerk, and others.

## WILL OF ROBERT DEWHURST, SCHOOLMASTER OF RIVINGTON, 1588.

(Chester Probate Registry.)

1588, 27 *March*. "Robert Dewhurst of Rivington" . . . "gent., being sicke and weake in bodie," &c. Mentions: Lease of the Church Rectory and Parsonage of Barrowe, Co. Chester, from Mark Metcalfe, Parson of Barrowe, for 60 years, or life of Mark Metcalfe, subject to an annual rent of £3, 6s. 8d., leaves same to Robert Dewhurst, son of William Dewhurst, his brother, and Robert Dewhurst, son of his late brother, Roger Dewhurst. Mentions first presentation of same granted by Sir John Savage of Rock

Savage, Kt. Legacies to Anne and Grace Dewhurst, daughters of his brother William Dewhurst and Elizabeth, his wife; his brother John Dewhurst and his wife; Lyonell Foole and Ellen his wife; sister Anne, late wife of John Grubbett[?]. Leaves 13s. 4d. to the reparation of the Church of Rivington and to the poor, 10s., and to the poor of Blackburne 40s. James Dewhurst, son of his brother William. He leaves James Pilkington, son of Geo: Pilkington, "one darke graye fyllic coulte." "Whereas Geo: Pilkington and his wife doe owe me £6, 13s. 4d. of lent money," he bequeaths same to Katherine and Isabella, their daughters. Further mentions Geo: Pilkington, Anne, his wife, and Robert, their son. Robt: Dewhurst, son of said William Dewhurst, Sole Exor.

Witnesses: Robert Haslom, Rich: Kyrshawe, Nicholas Kyrshawe, Xofer Bridge.

Inv: of goods of "Mr. Robert Dewhurst, Mr of Arts, layt of Rivington" valued 29 May by Xofer Bridge, Rodger Sale, Rich: Crocke, and John Dewhurst.

Dettes: John Dewhurst of Boyerhowse, 20s.

"Brother Lyonell Foole."

Proved—July 1588 by Exor.

#### WILL OF MARGARET BROMILAYE, 1599.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

10 *March* 1599. — Margaret Bromilaye of Rivington, Spinster. Mentions "Richard Bromilaye my brother and his wife"—"Mrs. Katherine Pilkington oweth me 12s."—"my father"—"my uncle Richard Bromielaye." "Item, I give unto my unckle Richard Browneleye his wyffe all the flaxe that I have trustinge y<sup>t</sup> shee will give my brother James shurtes when shee shall see him have neede of them." "Cossin Margaret Taylior"—"Uncle John."

Exor: Uncle Rich: Browneleye of Heath Chernocke.

Witnesses: Gylles Warde, Richarde Ainsworthe, Roberte Ainsworth.

Inv: 27 *Mar:* 1599 by Jas: Boloughe, Rich: Ainsworth, Gylles Ward, and John Taylior.

Sum tot: £9, 17s. 6d.

Proved 31 *May* 1600.

## WILL OF GEORGE BULLAUGH OF RIVINGTON, 1602.

(Chester Probate Registry.)

26 February 1602 [-3].—George Bullaugh of Rivington. Mentions his wife Margaret, his son James, daughters Rachel and Isobel, and his uncle Thomas Bullaugh, his brothers-in-law Richard Taylor of Sharples, Richard Ainsworth of Rivington, and Robert Forth of Heath-Charnock.

Witnesses: Raph Leaver, George Worsleye, and Thos: Hindley.

Proved 1603.

## SURVEY OF RIVINGTON, 1610.

(Rivington Muniments.)

TENEMENTS BELONGING TO Y<sup>E</sup> OLD HALL OF RIVINGTON.

The Tenants' Names for Lives.	Their Ages.	Ac.	Rd.	Sheep Com.	Days Shearing.	Present Hens.	Yearly Rent.	Yearly Value.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Richard Ainsworth . . .	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ellen his wife . . .	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
A mess: and necessary housing. This is granted in Revercon to Rob <sup>t</sup> Ainsworth and Agnes his wife	...	13	00	30	06	06	00 09 06	09 00 00
Tho: Sharples ats Ward .	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Two mess: a fair barn and other necessary howsing	...	21	00	40	06	06	01 06 08	15 00 00
Richard Brownlow . . .	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Margaret, his wife . . .	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
A mess: with necessary housing . . . . .	...	11	00	30	04	00	00 17 04	08 10 00
James Anderton . . . .	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jennet his wife . . . .	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
A mess: with necessary housing . . . . .	...	12	00	30	06	06	00 15 08	08 00 00
Raph Wallell for y <sup>e</sup> lives of Ellen Wastley and Raph Ashton, gent. . . . .	40 30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
A fair inn, with a faire new barne, stables, and other necessary buildings .	...	03	00	...	04	...	15 00	04 00 00

TENEMENTS BELONGING TO Y<sup>r</sup> OLD HALL OF RIVINGTON—*continued.*

Tenements for Years.	Their Ages.	Sheep Com.	Days Shearing.	Present Hens.	Yearly Rent.	Yearly Value.
	Ac. Rd.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Robt: Gill, milner . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
A water corn mill and a kilne . . . . .	00 00	...	06	05	01 00 00	06 13 04
The said Robt: assigns to Adam Rigby a cottage and two gardens . . . .	00 01	...	04	00	00 03 00	01 00 00
Oliver Pilkington . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Two fair mess: with a barne and other necessary build- ings . . . . .	07 00	...	06	06	15 00	05 00 00
Thomas Worsley . . . .	01 00	...	...	...	10	13 04
A little close called y <sup>e</sup> Sparth.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mrs. Katherine Pilkington .	...	...	...	...	...	...
A fair mess: with necessary out housing called y <sup>e</sup> New Hall . . . . .	14 01	...	...	...	...	12 00 00
Raph Leaver claimeth a shop and loft adjoyning to Ralph Wallell's house and holdeth a little garden which belongeth to Mrs. Katherine Pilkington .	per 00 04	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	02	05

The Boon Shearing is after y<sup>e</sup> rate of 4d. per day.  
The Hens is after y<sup>e</sup> rate of 6d. p hen.

## CHIEF RENTS.

	£ s. d.		Ac.	Rd.	Per.
The heirs of Adam Bradshaw . . .	00 00 08	} Acres of y <sup>e</sup> Demene Tenements	162	02	31
The heirs of Rob <sup>t</sup> Birkenhead . . .	02				
The heirs of Wm. Rivington: An arrow with a barbed head . . . . .					
The heirs of Roger Broadhurst . . .	00 00 03				
The heirs of Robert Shaw . . . . .	00 00 01				
The heirs of Rich: Knoll . . . . .	00 00 03				
The heirs of Roger Rivington . . .	...		154	03	24

This chief rent beateth date Año Secundo Edwardi  
filii Regis Edwardi.



*Julii 1610*

## RIVINGTON

## THE DEMAINES

	Ac.	Rd.	Per.	Yearly Value.		
				£	s.	d.
One capital mess: in some decay, a faire barne, a house for cattell, a stable and other necessary outhouses, a place for a garden and an orchard, with ye foulds and some waste grounds about ye house containing . . . . .	02	00	00	04	00	00
One cloase adjoyning called y <sup>e</sup> Huckscooles . . . . .	03	00	10	02	00	00
One cloase adjoyning called y <sup>e</sup> Acre . . . . .	02	00	05	01	10	00
One close called y <sup>e</sup> Stunsteed . . . . .	03	02	20	02	13	04
One close called y <sup>e</sup> Calf Croft . . . . .	02	02	00	01	13	4
One close called y <sup>e</sup> Great Birchenfield . . . . .	06	00	18	...		
The Barley Croft ats Little Birchenfield . . . . .	03	03	24	02	10	00
The New Marled Close . . . . .	03	00	00	02	00	00
The Rye Root . . . . .	03	01	00	02	06	08
The Stock Hey . . . . .	04	00	24	02	00	00
The Lane Cargreaves . . . . .	08	02	10	04	00	00
The Lane Field . . . . .	06	01	38	04	10	00
One meadow called Goose Hey . . . . .	01	00	00	01	03	04
One pasture called ye Robinfield . . . . .	04	03	12	04	00	00
The Constance Meadows . . . . .	02	00	00	01	00	00
The Little Rough Hey . . . . .	03	00	00	01	06	08
The Great Rough Hey . . . . .	07	00	00	03	00	00
The Greenhurst field . . . . .	02	02	20	01	06	08
The Great Meadow . . . . .	09	02	00	10	00	00
One cottage with a close newly enclosed . . . . .	03	00	00	02	00	00
Sum .	81	02	21	53	00	00
One pasture for sheep, newly enclosed from y <sup>e</sup> Common y <sup>e</sup> bounds whereof be now decayed, which being renewed will keep 300 wether sheep at least, w <sup>ch</sup> at 12 <sup>d</sup> p sheep amounts to £15, and doth contain 80 acres . . . . .	80	00	00	15	00	00
Sum tot: .	161	02	21	68	00	00

A TRUE CONTENT OF ALL THE TENEMENTS BELONGING TO THE OLD HALL  
OF RIVINGTON, SURVEYED BY JOHN WOODCOCK AND RICHARD MARTINS-  
CROFT.<sup>1</sup> 1627.

			Ac.	Rd.	Per.	Yd.
1627.	Rob <sup>t</sup> Ainsworth	. . .	16	01	39	...
	Pollard, wife	. . .	00	00	33	8
	Rob <sup>t</sup> Gill	. . .	07	00	29	...
	James Anderton	. . .	14	01	29	...
	Ralph Whalley	. . .	02	01	35	...
	Geffery Pilkington	. . .	09	02	26	...
	Withm Bulloughe	. . .	08	01	32	...
	Widdow Worsley	. . .	06	00	12	...
	James Isherwoode	. . .	08	02	30	...
	Richard Allen	. . .	09	01	27	...
	Tho <sup>s</sup> Broadhurst	. . .	22	01	32	...
	Roger Horrocks	. . .	07	00	08	...
	Widdow Houghton	. . .	08	02	12	...
	Richard Brownelows	. . .	14	00	37	...
	Tho <sup>s</sup> Warde	. . .	30	01	24	...
	Will <sup>m</sup> Darbshire	. . .	03	01	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
	James Browne	. . .	06	01	20	...
	George Brownelows	. . .	07	02	24	...
	Robert Foster	. . .	08	00	16	...
	Roger Wilson	. . .	05	00	34	...
	John Cross	. . .	07	02	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	...
	Hugh Simi	. . .	00	02	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
	Widdow Darbshire	. . .	03	00	19 $\frac{3}{4}$	...
	Roger Browne	. . .	01	02	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	...
	James Jolley	. . .	00	00	18	...
	John Hodgekinson	. . .	03	01	03	...
	Richard Jepsone	. . .	00	02	23	1
			213	02	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	10

WILL OF ROBERT LEVER OF DARCY LEVER  
AND RIVINGTON.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

In the Name of God Amen. 13th *May* 1620. I Robert Leaver  
of Darcy Leaver in the County of Lancaster gent: being in good health  
and perfect memory for which I give God most hearty thanks, &c.

<sup>1</sup> From a copy in the possession of Colonel Pilkington.

"The land that I bought of Oswald Mosely Esq. which lyeth in Heaton Faughfield and the land I have bought of Abraham Hilton lying and adjoining the said land in Heaton. I give one half . . . to my son John Lever" and the other half to "my son William Leaver." Leaves lands in Strangways bought of Adam Smith to son William—"house in Market Stid Lane in Manchester called the Newhouse held of John Hunt Esq<sup>r</sup> to son John Leaver"—another house in Manchester, half to son John and half to son William. "A little land lying in Heath Charnock and Walton le Dale left out of a deed made to my son Robert Leaver" gives the one half "to said son Robert and the other half to Thomas Breres son of Thomas Breres late of Boulton deceased."

Tenement in "Munnton held of Mr. Downes to my son Richard and his son Ralph."

"Also I give towards the wages of a Preacher to be hired at Rivington yearly for ever forty shillings when there is a preacher there but when there is none for the space of three months together then none to be paid until a preacher be provided," &c.

"Twenty pounds to be paid yearly by twenty shillings a year towards Mr. Gosnell his wages" and after his death to "what preacher shall be placed in his place so longe and untill Twenty poundes shall be paid." Reference is also made to a promise of 100 marks towards a fund for the stipend of a preacher at Bolton. Leaves bequests to the poor of Bolton Edgworth, "the two Leavers" Harwood and Turton, and "forty shillings to the poor of Rivington."

Mentions "son James Leaver"—and leaves bequests to "my brother Richard Leaver deceased his children whereof £15 is to be given to one of his sons that is gone to Cambridge to be a scholar."

Leaves "£4 towards the buying of some more lands towards the schoole of Bolton."

Mentions "son Richard Leaver"—"son-in-law John Harpur and his wife Ellen my daughter"—"the children of John Bradshaw which he had by my daughter Alice"—"Evan Grundy my grandson"—"the children of Arthur Isherwood which he had by Ellen the daughter of Robert Grundy my granddaughter"—"to Robert Leaver my son Richard[s] younger son 100 marks and I give to Alice the wife of William Entwistle my son Richard his daughter £50." "Ellen Seddon the wife of Peter Seddon"—"Anne Seddon the wife of John Richardson"—"Alice Seddon

the wife of Thomas Tyldesley all being the daughters of William Seddon weh: he had by my daughter Jane."

"To my son James his children, to my son John his children, my son William his children and my son-in-law John Harpur his children to every one of them £5 and if my son Robert marry and have children to them also £5 each.

"The sheep I have at Rivington."

[From references in the will it is clear that Richard is the impecunious and possibly improvident one of the sons.]

Exors: Sons, James, Robert, John, and William Leaver.

Overseers: Mr. Gosnell and brother-in-law George Kenyon of Kersall gent.

Inv: valued by John Lomax of Pilsworth, Robert Grundye of G<sup>t</sup> Leaver, W<sup>m</sup> Seddon of Pilkington, Robert Seddon of Pilkington, and Arthur Isherwood of Tonge. 30th May. 18th and 53rd James [1621].

Dettes due to testator:—

Alexander Leaver, clerke, xx<sup>s</sup>.

Mrs. Elizabeth Leaver, xl<sup>s</sup>.

Mr. Leaver of Little Leyver, xl<sup>s</sup>.

Proved 2nd July 1621.

#### WILL OF THOMAS BREERES OF BOLTON, 1617.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

21 *March* 1616[7].—Thomas Breres of Bolton, Chapman, leaves "all that moytie of the Manor of Rivington to Hellin" his wife, and mentions lands and tenements in Rivington, Heath Charnock, and Walton le Dale—one moiety thereof he leaves to his wife for her life and the other moiety until Thomas Breres his eldest son attained 24 years. The first moiety to descend to his son Thomas Breres on his wife's death and to his heirs, remainder to John Breres second son and his heirs, with remainder to Alice, testator's daughter, and her heirs. Mentions Lands in Bolton and Sharples. "My will and mind is that if the inhabitants of "the towne of Rivington or thereabouts doe hyre a preacher to preach "at Rivington Church that they shall have fortie shillings a yeare everie "yeare soe long as they shall soe hyre a preacher towards the better

"maintenance and fyndeinge of such a preacher as shal be by them soe  
"hyred as aforesaid"—said 40s. to be out of lands of Rivington.

Executors : Wife Hellin and brothers Henry and John Breres.

Witnesses : Roger Charnocke, Wm. Breres.

THOS: BRERES.

[sgd.]

Depositions of witnesses taken at Grays Inn, Co. Middlesex, 1617 :—  
Roger Charnocke of Grays Inn, Esquire, aged 28, confirms his  
signature and says testator was of sound mind and memory.

Wm: Breres of London, yeoman, aged 28, deposes to the same effect.

Inv: 1 April 1617, by Seath Bushell, Roger Rogerson, Wm:  
Leaver, and Jas: Breres.

[*Inter alia.*] "Totall some of all the wares in the shoppe and ware-  
house: £382, os. 10d."

Goods at Rivington, £142, 18s. 8d.

Sum total, £1254, 4s.

Proved 11 August 1617.

#### WILL OF JAMES JEPSON, 1617.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

3 Dec. 1617.—James Jepson of Rivington, husbandman. Mentions his  
wife Margaret, and leaves certain goods equally among his children  
"except John, who hathe his portion allreadie."

Special legacies to Penelope his daughter, James Jepson his son,  
Peter Jepson his son, to whom he leaves "a pair of woollen Loumes with  
all furniture to them belonging."

Exors: Wife and his son James. Mentions 4 acres "newly taken out  
of the Common which I compounded with Mr. Robert Pilkington, my late  
maister for"—"besides some waste peece nere my house and the Knowle  
stones, I gave him for a fyne £3 for 3 lyves, viz., my awne, my wife's,  
and James my sonne's, at 2s. rent for the peece, and 12d. an acre."

Witnesses: Alexander Walkeden, Robert Ainsworthe.

Inv: 14 Dec: 1617 by George Allens, Peter Rothwell, James Horroks,  
and Henry Welche. Sum tot. £147, 17s. 7d.

Proved 29 Aug: 1618.



## WILL OF MARGARET BROWNLOW, 1640.

*(Chester Probate Registry.)*

"8 *Julie* 1640.—I, Margrett Browneloe of Rivington, widowe." Body to be buried at Rivington Church. Leaves forty shillings to Rivington Church. Mentions Roger and William Anderton, her nephews, whom she makes her executors. She leaves to "Rich: Brownlowe, sonne of George Brownlow, the Irone chimney, with furniture, &c., and a brandereth, the foulden Bord and the greate meale arke, and it is my will that they shall remayne as heire longes [*sic*] att the house soe longe as any of the Brownloe's name remayne there."

Witnesses: Christopher Wood, Robert Ainsworthe, George Greene.

Codicil dated 29 Jan: 1640.

Inv: 1 Feb: 1640[1] by Alex: Fielden, Jas: Anderton, Geo: Brownloe, and Roger Makinson. Sum total £95, 6s.

Proved 22 April 1641.

THE PROTESTATION.<sup>1</sup>

We, the knights, citizens, and burgesses of the Commons House in Parliament, finding to the grief of our hearts that the designs of the Priests and Jesuits, and other adherents to the See of Rome, have of late been more boldly and frequently put in practice than formerly, to the undermining and danger of the true reformed Protestant religion in His Majesty's dominions established; and finding also that there hath been, and having just cause to suspect there still are, even during the sittings in Parliament, endeavours to subvert the fundamental laws of England and Ireland, and to introduce the exercise of an arbitrary and tyrannical government by most pernicious and wicked counsels, practices, plots, and conspiracies; and that the long intermission and unhappier breach of Parliaments hath occasioned many illegal taxations, whereby the subjects have been prosecuted and grieved; and that divers innovations and superstitions have been brought into the Church, multitudes driven out of His Majesty's dominions, jealousies raised and fomented between the

<sup>1</sup> May 3, 1641. Rushworth, viii. 735 (quoted from Gardiner's "Constitutional Documents," p. 84).

King and his people; a Popish army levied in Ireland, and two armies<sup>1</sup> brought into the bowels of this kingdom, to the hazard of His Majesty's royal person, the consumption of the revenue of the crown, and the treasure of this realm. And lastly, finding the great cause of jealousy, that endeavours have been, and are used, to bring the English army into a misunderstanding of this Parliament, thereby to incline that army by force to bring that army to pass those wicked counsels; have therefore thought good to join ourselves in a Declaration of our united affections and resolutions, and to make this ensuing Protestation:—

I, A. B., do in the presence of God, promise, vow, and protest to maintain and defend, as far as lawfully I may with my life, power, and estate, the true reformed Protestant religion expressed in the doctrine of the Church of England, against all Popery and popish innovation within this realm, contrary to the said doctrine, and according to the duty of my allegiance, I will maintain and defend His Majesty's royal person and estate:—

As also the power and privilege of Parliaments, the lawful rights and liberties of the subjects, and every person that shall make this Protestation in whatsoever he shall do, in the lawful pursuance of the same; and to my power, as far as lawfully I may, I will oppose, and by all good ways and means endeavour to bring to condign punishment all such as shall by force, practice, counsels, plots, conspiracies, or otherwise, do anything to the contrary in this present Protestation contained: and further, that I shall in all just and honourable ways endeavour to preserve the union and peace betwixt the three kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and neither for hope, fear, or any other respects, shall relinquish this promise, vow, and protestation.

#### WILL OF ROBERT LEAVER OF LONDON AND RIVINGTON, 1642.

(*Commissary Court of London, Register of Wills, 1642–1644, No. 29, fo. 342.*)

16 *March* 1641, 17 Car: 1 [A.D. 1642].—I, Robert Leaver of London, clothier, being “aged and weake”—desire to be buried in the parish where I die, or elsewhere at my executors' discretion. To the 5 children

<sup>1</sup> The Scottish army and the English army opposed to it.

of Ewan Grundie, late of great Leaver, Co. Lancs., deceased, £40, to them or the survivors of them at age of 21, in equal proportions; to James Leaver, son of James Leaver, late of Darcy Leaver, deceased, £300; to John Leaver, son of the said James Leaver, deceased, £300; to Jane, the wife of Richard Meadowcroft of Brightmett, in Co. Lancs., £50, but if she die before me, then her children and the survivors of them to have the said legacy at age of 21; to Anne Leaver, daughter of the said James Leaver, deceased, 100 marks; to Ellen Seddon, wife of Peter Seddon of Pilkington, Co. Lancs., £30—the same to her children in the event of her pre-decease; to the 2 children of Ann, late wife of John Yates, £10 each at age of 21; to Katherine, wife of Thomas Birch, £30; to Alice, wife of William Entwysell of Edgworth, Co. Lancs., £10; to Ralph Leaver, son of Richard Leaver, of the parish of Eccles, Co. Lancs., £100; to Robert Leaver, brother of the said Raphe Leaver, £300; to James Bradshaw, son of John Bradshaw of Darcy Leaver, £20; to Robert Bradshaw, brother of the said James, £20; to Richard Richardson of Halliwell, Co. Lancs., yeoman, £10; to Ellen, the wife of the said Richard Richardson, £50; I forgive John Harper of Halliwell, clerk, a debt of £88 4s. 6d., and give him £111 15s. 6d.; to Robert Harper, his brother, £40; to Lidia Harper, their sister, £40; to my brother John Leaver, £200; to Katherine, his wife, £10; to the 4 children of my brother John, £20, to be equally divided at 21 years of age; to my brother William Leaver, £1500; to Elizabeth, his wife, £10; to my brother Leaver's children, £40, to be equally divided at 21 years of age; to the poor of Bolton parish, Co. Lancs., £20; to the poor of Rivington, £5, to be distributed at the discretion of John Harper, clerk, and Robert Leaver of Darcy Leaver; to the poor of Darcy Leaver and Little Leaver, £5, at the discretion of Robert Leaver of the same place and John Crompton; to the preacher of Rivington and the vicar of Bolton, 20 shillings each; to Robert Whitehead, "at whose house I now lodge," £20 between them; to Mr. Whitehead's servants, £5 amongst them; to the poor of St. Lawrence Parish in London, where I now lie, £10; to the 4 prisons of Ludgate, Newgate, and the 2 Compters of Woodstreete and Poultrye, £10, viz., to each prison, 50 shillings for the debtors therein; to the vicar and lecturer of St. Lawrence aforesaid, 40 shillings each, and to the reader, 20 shillings; to Mr. George Hardman, factor at Blackewell Hall, 22 shillings for a ring; to my cousin John Leaver in London, son of Richard Leaver, £5; to my cousin Thomas Leaver on

the Towerhill, and to my brother-in-law John Bradshaw of Darcy Leaver, and Richard Lomax of Manchester, 40 shillings each to buy rings; to Richard Wroe of Luraton[?] Yate, £5; to George Kenion, the elder, of Kersall, Co. Lancs., Hamnett Warburton of Partington, Co. Chester, Robert Leaver of Darcy Leaver, and Elizabeth his wife, and to the wife of Robert Leaver of Manchester, and to the wife of John Harper, 25 shillings each to buy rings; to James Lomas in Coleman Street, £3; to William Joanes, in Suffolk Lane in London, 50 shillings; to Mr. Calamy, or such as shall be lecturer in Aldermanbury Church at my death, £5; to Jane, daughter of Robert Leaver of Darcy Leaver, £3; the residue of my goods to my executors in equal parts. I appoint my brothers William Leaver and John Leaver, my nephew Robert Leaver of Manchester, and my nephews James Leaver and John Leaver, sons of my deceased brother James Leaver, to be my executors. I give to my executors £400 out of my lands and hereditaments in Rivington, Co. Lancs., in equal portions. And whereas I have formerly purchased lands in Harwood, Co. Lancs., of Mr. Crompton and others, which purchase was taken and made in my name and the names of my brothers William and John Leaver and our heirs, I do will and declare that they shall hold the said lands to them and their heirs for ever against my heirs, they paying and allowing for the same unto my personal estate £150, or in default thereof shall sell the said lands for the best advantage, and the said £350, or the money raised by sale thereof, and £250 more, which I will shall be taken out of my personal estate, shall be disbursed by my executors for such purposes as I shall appoint in my life time. And for want of such appointment by me, then I will the said £350 or the money raised by sale of the said lands and the said £250 shall be disposed in such pious uses as my executors shall think fit, either for erecting and maintaininge a free school or a chapel or otherwise as to them shall seem meet.

Witnesses: William Rider, James Crompton, Henry Colbron.

Proved 7 September 1641[?4] by John Leaver the elder and William Leaver, Robert Leaver the elder and John Leaver the younger, executors, power being reserved to James Leaver to make probate hereafter.

On 26 April 1645, the said James Leaver, one of the executors named, made probate.

[In the last clause of the will the sum of £150 should apparently be £350. There is probably an error somewhere, the exact words of the

copy in the register being "unto my personal estate *one hundred one hundred and ffiftye pounds*, or in default," &c.]

WILL OF ROBERT GILL OF RIVINGTON, 1647.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

14 *October* 1647.—Robert Gill of Rivington, husbandman, &c.—"All my lands that were my brother Raph's, to my son, Abraham Gill."

"Close att the Knowles Noweke, whereof parte is my free land."

Leaves same to his son Isaac.

Exors: James Anderton of Rivington, and Katherine, his daughter.

Witnesses: John Worsley, Robt: Ainsworthe.

Inv: valued by Thurstan Parre, Geffreye Pilkington, W<sup>m</sup> Anderton, and Jas: Isherwood, 23 Oct. 1647.

Proved, 1647.

CHARGES AGAINST MR. BLACKBURN, 1647.

(*Chetham Soc.*, vol. xxxvi. [N.S.] p. 8.)

Upon complaint made w<sup>th</sup> a petiçon and articles exhibitted against Mr Thomas Blackburn, minist<sup>r</sup> att Rivington, by Richard Kershawe, George Shaw, William Hopton, Richard Taylor, W<sup>m</sup> Anderton, and John Anderton, ordered that a summons be issued out to require y<sup>e</sup> said Mr Blackbourne to appeare before y<sup>e</sup> classis, April 22, next meeting.

Mr Blackbourne's articles.

Articles ag<sup>t</sup> Mr Thomas Blackbourne, minister at Rivington, informed *ut supra* :—

(a) He doth not attend his charge, but is many days absent, and sleights his congregation without publicke notice or private either in due time, and so itt cometh to passe y<sup>t</sup> people loose their labour to church and are disappointed of the means, and some take occasion to drinke and prophane y<sup>e</sup> Lord's day. Witnesses: Richard Kershaw, W<sup>m</sup> Anderton.

(b) He neglects ordinarily the observation of the publicke fast. Witts: Richard Kershaw and W<sup>m</sup> Anderton.



- (c) He useth to kneele downe at his first comeing both into y<sup>e</sup> deske and pulpitt. Witt<sup>s</sup>: George Shaw, John Anderton.
- (d) We conceive he is not ordained minister in any lawfull manner. W<sup>m</sup> Jepson, George Shaw, witnesses.
- (e) Nevertheless, he ordinarily taketh upon him to baptize att Rivington. W<sup>m</sup> Anderton, Richard Kershaw, witt<sup>s</sup>.
- (f) He hath baptized a child, born of popish parente, in the hundred of Lealand, and the father was absent. Witt<sup>s</sup>: John Anderton, Richard Kershaw.
- (g) Wee conceive he hath not taken y<sup>e</sup> Nationale Covenant. George Shaw, William [Andert]on, witts.
- (h) He useth to preach without prayinge before. George Shaw, Richard Taylor, witt<sup>s</sup>.
- (i) He useth to associate himselfe with profane company. George Shaw, John Anderton, Richard Taylor, witt<sup>s</sup>.
- (j) He hath testified his unwillingness to come to private dayes and conference, being several times desired. George Shaw, wittness.

Deposition of witt<sup>s</sup> upon oath upon these articles. Richard Kershaw and William Anderton, sworne and examined, saye and depose as to the second article that itt is true. George Shaw and John Anderton, sworne and examined, say and depose as to y<sup>e</sup> third article that it is true. George Shaw and Richard Taylor, sworne and examined, say and depose as to y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> article that it is true. George Shaw, John Anderton, Richard Taylor, sworne and examined, saye as to y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> article that itt is true. George Shaw, sworn and examined, sayth and deposeth as to the tenth article that itt is true.

#### RIVINGTON PETITION, 1647.

(*Chetham Soc.*, vol. xxxvi. [N.S.] p. 42.)

#### THE PETITION OF RIVINGTON MEN.

*Rivington Petition for Mr. Walker.*

To the reverend classis assembled at Bury, the humble petition of y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants of Rivington, Anlezarke, and places adjacent.

Humbly sheweth that whereas Mr. John Walker by preaching sev<sup>r</sup>all

sabbaths att Riveington hath given very good content unto y<sup>e</sup> congrega-  
tion, therefore we on our owne and the behalf of y<sup>e</sup> rest earnestly desire  
that this reverend classis would be pleased to pmitt, assent, and approve  
y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr John Walker may officiate att our church att Riveington for  
and dureing such time as this reverend classis shall thinke fitt.

## SUBSCRIBED—

Richard Fish.	Richard Tayler.	Thurstan Bradley.
Robt. Pendlebury.	Robert Leaver.	Richard Jepson.
Alex. ffielden.	Tho. Brownley.	George Brownlow.
James Brimble.	John Croston.	Richard Brownlow.
Henry Hodgkinson.	John Nightingale.	Evan Worsley.
James Barnes.	Richard Abbot.	Richard Brodhurst.
W <sup>m</sup> Smith.	Adam Scolecroft.	John Jolly.
Peter Walkden.	Rog <sup>r</sup> Anderton.	Thomas Mahtgale [Night-
George Hostize.	Peter Hamson.	gale.]
James Jolly.	Uxor. Ra. Morris.	George Shaw.
Richard Bromlow.	Oliver Allins.	Richard Kershaw.
Henry Seddon.	James Booth.	James Bullocke.
Jam. Anderton.	Nicholas Waaddlington.	John Bullough.
Jeffrey Pilkington.	Tho. Simpson.	Robert Taylor.
Oliver Walker.	John Holland.	Tho. Clayton.
W <sup>m</sup> Jepson.	John Blaine.	John Anderton.
Uxor. James Browne.	Tho. Bring.	John Morris.
Crofer Wood.	Abraham Gill.	James Tayler.
Giles Warde.	John Brothurst.	George Jepson.
Gilbert Leigh.	Elis Rycroft.	Oliver Simner.
James Isherwood.	James Pilkington.	Richard Waddington.
Willm. Anderton.		

## COMMONWEALTH SURVEY OF RIVINGTON, 1650.

(*Record Soc. Lanc. and Cheshire*, vol. i. p. 34.)

Alsoe wee p<sup>r</sup>sent that there is w<sup>th</sup>in Rivington one parochiall Chappell,  
w<sup>ch</sup> is eight myles distant from the pishe Church of Boulton, three myles  
from Blackrode, five statute myles at least from Walmersley (Walmsley).  
and seaven from Turton; and that Lostocke usually beareth a fourth

pte with the towne of Rivington, and every fourth year findeth a Churchwarden: And Heath Charnocke and Anderton (although in Standishe pish) yet are foure myles distant from their parish Church, and are nere adioyninge unto Rivington, pte whereof lye w<sup>thin</sup> sixty or eighty statute poles thereof; and doe thinke fit the families hereafter named (beinge), they usually resort to the said Chappell of Rivington vpon all occasions, may be vnyted to the said Chappell of Rivington, vidzt, in Anderton, John Horrobins, Alex<sup>r</sup> Greenes, Robte Andertons, Thomas Rivingtons, Hugh Nightgales [Nightingales], Thomas Johnsons, Joseph Worthingtons, Robte Fosters, George Greenes, widowe Symms, Rauffe Houghs, Robte Fosters, sen<sup>r</sup>, and in Charnocke, M<sup>r</sup> Peter Shawes, Alexander Fieldens, Richard Blackeleach, Edward Taylor, Roger Rainford, James Jollys, Richard Croftons, the family of lower Crofton, James Brindles, John Vause, Thurstan Tayler, widowe Shawe, The Inhabitants of the hall of the hill, Roger Blomley, Richard Brownelowe, Mr. Goodens, Robert Allensons, Richard Fosters, Edward Baxters, widow Fosters, Ellis Rycrofts, Thomas Haldsworth, Christopher Brindles, Nicholas Hiltons, Richard Popes, and Henry Smythes, All w<sup>ch</sup> they thinke fitt to bee made pte of the pishe of Rivington; And that M<sup>r</sup> Rauffe Nuttall, a godly painfull and orthodox minister, officiateth the Cure there; and that there is a donative of two hundred pounds given by M<sup>r</sup> George Shawe (late of Blackborne [Blackburn]) to the said Church of Rivington, w<sup>ch</sup> is in the hands of M<sup>r</sup> Standish, of Duxbury, Esq<sup>r</sup>, who hath given security to the trustees for the same for the paym<sup>t</sup> of ten pounds p An<sup>n</sup>. to the said Church; and that Robte Leaver of Little Leaver, gentleman, and Thomas Brere of Rivington, gent., have given out of lands which they purchased from M<sup>r</sup>. Pilkington, w<sup>ch</sup> lye in Rivington, eyther of them in the some of fforty shillings p an<sup>n</sup> for ever, which is constantly payed to the Minister of Rivington; and there is likewise given by severall well disposed persons the some of thirty-six pounds, the yssues and profitts whereof are yearely payed towards the mainteynance of the said Minister, for w<sup>ch</sup> some of thirty-six pounds security is given by severall psons in whose hands it is, except ten pounds w<sup>ch</sup> is in the hands of Robte Shawe of High Bollough, gent., who refuses either to give security or pay in the Interest for the same. That the privy tyths untill w<sup>thin</sup> theise two yeares have beene payed to the agents for sequestracons w<sup>thin</sup> Boulton pishe, w<sup>ch</sup> were sequestred for the delinquency of M<sup>r</sup> Anderton of Lostocke, but now for these two yeares last past are not demanded, the

yearely value whereof is worth fiftie-three shillings foure pence, besides the tyths of Corn, amountinge to the yearely value of ten pounds, w<sup>ch</sup> is yearely payed to Mr Robert Leaver and Mr Breers aforesaid; and that the privy tyths of Anglezarke [Anglezargh] belonge to Rivington, and doe yearely amount to twenty-six shillings eight pence, and the tyths of Corne to ten shillings, haveinge untill w<sup>thin</sup> this few yeares beene payed to Mr Anderton aforesaid, and since to the agents of sequestra<sup>con</sup>. That Lostocke belonginge to Rivington, hath payed ten shillings p an<sup>n</sup> unto the said Mr Anderton, and now pay the same unto the agents for seques- tra<sup>con</sup> for theire tythe Corne, well worth ten pounds p an<sup>n</sup> to bee received in kind; and wee find that there is some lands in the hamlett of Horwich belonginge to Mr Anderton of Lostocke w<sup>ch</sup> pay noe tyths, the tyths whereof are worth foure pounds ten shillings p an<sup>n</sup>; and other lands in Heaton belonginge to the said Mr Anderton, the tyths whereof are worth two pounds p an<sup>n</sup>; and other lands in Rumworth belonging to the affore- said Mr Anderton w<sup>ch</sup> are worth forty shillings p an<sup>n</sup>; and in Hallywell Sr Thomas Barton payeth by way of p<sup>re</sup>scrip<sup>con</sup> in lewe of tyths twelve shillings: the tyth in kind is worth three pounds p an<sup>n</sup>. Mr Rauffe Heaton of Leaton payeth by p<sup>re</sup>scrip<sup>con</sup> five shillings p an<sup>n</sup>; his tyths are worth in kind one pounds tenn shillings. Mr Walmsley of Roger- steed pays by way of p<sup>re</sup>scrip<sup>con</sup> five shillings; his tythes are worth in kind twenty shillings; Mr Hilton of Farnworth payeth by way of p<sup>re</sup>scrip<sup>con</sup> three pence p an<sup>n</sup>, and is worth three pounds; Goodman Lees of the high field payes by way of p<sup>re</sup>scrip<sup>con</sup> six shillings eight pence, and one pounds two shillings p an<sup>n</sup>.

## WILL OF REV. JOHN BREERES OF RIVINGTON, 1667.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

13 May 1667.—John Breeres the younger of Rivington, clerke, &c., “finding myself subject to some infirmities of my body,” &c. Men- tions wife Elizabeth, and refers to a deed, dated 11th March last past, by which he demised to William Pilkington of Wigan, gentleman, and James Pilkington of Heaton Roads, gentleman, all his moiety of the Manor of Rivington for fifty years from and after the death of testator’s uncle Thomas Breeres, subject to certain provisions for redeeming it.



Mentions his brother William Breeres. Exors: Elizabeth, his wife, and Edward Dicconson of Coppull, gentleman.

Proved 6th Aug: 1667.

JOHN BRERES.  
[sgd.]

WILL OF WILLIAM ANDERTON OF RIVINGTON, 1670.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

25 *August* 1670.—William Anderton of Rivington Co. Lanc: husbandman, being but weake and infirme in body, &c. "Whereas I have a lease under the hands and seales of Robert Leaver & Thomas Brieres, gentilmen, of one close of ground called The Sheephhouse Browe for 21 years, bearing date 20<sup>th</sup> Aprill, 1653." He assigns same to John Isherwood and his heirs, &c. Legacies to John Thorneley and his wife and children. Mentions "William Anderton my nephew," "Peter Anderton my nephew," and others, including "Agnes Isherwood, my sister," and leaves to the "poore of Rivington 20s." "Item, I give and bequeath unto Mr John Walker, minister, y<sup>e</sup> sume of ten shillings; item, I give and bequeath unto Mr Samuell Newton, minister, y<sup>e</sup> sume of ten shillings." Residue of estate to nephew, John Isherwood, whom he also makes Executor.

Witness : George Shawe.

Inv: dated 8 Sept: 1670, value £33, 14s. 4d.

Proved 9 Sept: 1670.

WILL OF THOMAS BREERES OF RIVINGTON, 1673.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

[20 *April* 1673] Thomas Breres of Rivington, gentleman, desires that his body "be decently interred in the Parochall Chaple of Rivington among my friends," &c. Leaves his "capital messuage or Mansion House called the Hall of Rivington and the demaine lands thereto belonging and all the tythes," &c., in Rivington to Thomas Leaver of Chamber, Esquire; William Anderton of Horwich, Doctor of Physic; Edward Dicconson of Coppull, gentleman; and William Crosse (son of Thomas Crosse, late of Rivington, yeoman, and Alice, his wife, daughter



of testator) as feoffees to uses. Mentions his brother, John Breres; Edmund Crosse, his grandchild. Leaves to Thomas Anderton of Rivington, yeoman, £20 for the benefit of Thomas Walkden, testator's grandchild. Residue of real estate to William Crosse, his grandchild. Leaves £5 to Winifred Livesey, his grandchild. 20 April 1673.

Witnesses: Thomas Anderton, John Isherwood, Thomas Briggs.

Proved 19 June 1673 by Edward Dicconson (power reserved).

HEARTH TAX FOR RIVINGTON, 1673-74<sup>1</sup>

## RIVEINGTON

Francis Hamer . . . . .	2	Rich: Sym . . . . .	2
W <sup>m</sup> Jackson . . . . .	1	Roger Jolley . . . . .	1
Geo: Browne . . . . .	2	Anne Worsley . . . . .	1
Hen: Willobey . . . . .	2	Robert Cocker . . . . .	1
W <sup>m</sup> Entwisle . . . . .	1	Tho: Worsley . . . . .	1
Rich: Barnes . . . . .	1	Jon: Usherwood . . . . .	1
W <sup>m</sup> Barnes . . . . .	1	Jon: Brownelow . . . . .	1
Jo <sup>n</sup> Leusley . . . . .	1	Jon: Usherwood . . . . .	1
Isack Hill . . . . .	1	Peter Anderson <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1
Miles Browne . . . . .	1	Widow Nickall . . . . .	1
W <sup>m</sup> Hamlott . . . . .	1	Widow ...llows . . . . .	1
Geo: Green . . . . .	1	Tho: Finch . . . . .	1
Rich: Brownelow . . . . .	1	Hen: Slater . . . . .	1
W <sup>m</sup> Nicholson . . . . .	1	Tho: Allen . . . . .	1
M <sup>r</sup> Breares . . . . .	4	Thur: Bradley . . . . .	2
Hen: Ensworth . . . . .	1	Tho: Anderton . . . . .	2
Jon: Darbishier . . . . .	1	Nick Warrington . . . . .	1
Tho: Whilley . . . . .	1		<u>44</u>

## WILL OF REV. SAMUEL NEWTON, 1682.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

6 March 1682 [n.s.].—Samuel Newton, in the county of Lancaster, clarke, being sicke and weake, &c. Directs that the sum of £300 be "laid out upon land" in the names of Thomas Anderton of Rivington,

<sup>1</sup> Subsidy Roll 1312.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic* for Anderton.

James Shaw of Anglezargh, and John Bradley of Rivington and the survivor or survivors as feoffees in trust to pay the income to testator's widow Elizabeth during her life, and after her death the capital sum to be divided among their four children, viz., Caleb, Abigail, Elizabeth, and Sarah [all under 21]. Mentions messuage and tenement in Blackburn and the same "oweinge to me by my mother-in-law being parte of my wives porcon." He desires that his wife and children live together "so longe as the tearme I have in the Newe Hall Tenement shall continue."

Exors: Wife, Elizabeth, and Edward Richardson of Tonge.

SAMUEL NEWTON.

[sgd.]

Witnesses: Mercy Richardson, Henry Bradley, James Pilkington, John Bradley.

Proved 22 June 1682 by widow, Richardson renouncing.

Inv: of Samuel Newton, late of Rivington, clarke, 28 April 1682. [*Inter alia*] In silver, £10, 12s. 0d; in bookes, £23, 12s. 3d.; interest in Newhall tenement; tenements in Blackburn and Padiham, valued by George Shaw, Thomas Anderton, Thomas Waddington, and Roger Finch. "The books appraised by John Walker and John Bradley."

#### WILL OF JOHN BROWNLOW OF RIVINGTON, 1683.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

15 January 1683.—John Brownlow of Rivington, yeoman. Mentions his wife, Alice; his son, George; and his six younger children [all under 21]. He leaves "my messuage and tenement wherein I now live and also the close called the Sheephhouse Browe, and the parcell of ground called Pollard Croft," &c., "and the several leases thereof, to George Brownlow and John Brownlow of Rivington, yeomen, &c., in trust to certain uses.

Cousin George Brownlow, Exor.

Witnesses: Evan Worsley, Elizabeth Worsley, John Bradley.

Proved 22 Oct: 1684.

Inv: 6 Jan. 1683[4] by Ric: Brownlow, Thos: Anderton, John Isherwood, and John Brownlow.

WILL OF ROBERT LEVER OF DARCY LEVER AND  
RIVINGTON, 1687.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

"Forasmuch as it is appoynted for all men once to dye, and observing that many dye very suddenly, and not knowing the day of my departure, I, Robert Lever of Darcy Lever, doe make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, &c.: Item, it is my mind and will that my lands in Rivington, Heath Charnock, *alias* Charnock Goggard, and Walton le Dale descend and come to my daughter Jane Andrewes and the heirs of her body, and for want of such issue to my right heirs." He charges said lands with an annual payment of £20 to his "loving wife Frances Lever." Mentions a settlement made before marriage with said Frances, vested in "Edward Herle, Esquire, and James Peake of Warrington, gentleman (since deceased)," as Trustees. "John Andrewes, my grandson and heir-apparent to my daughter Jane."

"Whereas my grandfather Mr Robert Lever did by his last will and testament, dated 13 May 1620, give towards the wages of a preacher to be hired at Rivington yearly for ever fortie shillings when there is a preacher there, but when there is none for the space of three monthes together then none to be paid till a preacher be provided." This sum to be paid by his heirs of Rivington annually, and for want of such, he gave authority to the feoffees of Rivington School "to enter of so much of the tythe as would discharge the said payment." This testator ratifies and confirms. Lands in Bolton to daughter Andrewes and grandson Robert Andrewes. Granddaughter Elizabeth Andrewes £100. Lease of lands in Radcliffe for 1000 years from Sir John Radcliffe of Ordsall to "my uncle John Leaver and his assigns," &c.

Lands in Darcy Lever settled by deed dated 27 Feb: 1684[5], on the heirs male of testator's body, with remainder to "nephew James Lever of London." Leaves to "brother James Lever £20"; to "Mr. John Lever our present vicar forty shillings," he to preach testator's funeral sermon, and to "take for his text the 2nd and 3rd verses of the 3rd chapter of the 1st Epistle of St. John." To Mrs Parke and to

Mrs Hewood of Ormskirke 40 shillings each. Mentions "goods I have at Rivington." Appoints wife sole Exix.

Witnesses: John Lever, James —(?), Thos: Horrockes.  
4 Feb: 1686[7].

ROBERT LEVER.

[sgd.]

[Seal—a shield of arms bearing two bends,  
that in chief engrailed.]

Proved 16 March 1688[9] by Frances Lever, widow.

WILL OF THE REV: JOHN BRERES OF RIVINGTON, 1692.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

14 May 1692.—"John Breres of Rivington, Clarke, being well stricken in yeares," &c.

Debts to be paid "by my heir out of my Rivington estate, and particularly a debt of fourscore pounds, principal for payment of which I and my son William have jointly entered bond unto Geo: Shaw (of Anglezargh at that time), now of Heath Charnock, Thos: Anderton of Rivington, Roger Finch, late of Rivington, and Jonathan Kershaw of Anglezargh, dated 17 Sept: 1683." Mentions "my granddaughter Anne, daughter of my late daughter Mary," "my son William Breres." Residue to two daughters, Ellen Reynolds and Alice Dickenson, whom he appoints executrixes.

JOH: BRERES.

[sgd.]

Witnesses: Geo: Brownlow, Jas: Isherwood, Thos: Reynolds, John Bradley.

Proved 25 Nov: 1696.

Inv: of John Breres, late of Rivington, clarke.

[*Inter alia*] "In the old man's chamber." "At the Great House in Rivington, two tables." Goods "in Sharples."

Sum total, £158, 5s. 8d.

WILL OF GEORGE BROWNLOW OF RIVINGTON, 1697.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

George Brownlow of Rivington, Yeoman. "Messuage and Tenement Rivington which was my grandfather George Brownlow's, and also all that moiety of the tenement in Rivington commonly called Ward's,

belonging to mee," he devises same to John Bradley, schoolm<sup>r</sup>, and Peter Bradley, yeoman, both of Rivington, on trust to following uses:— To his wife Elizabeth for her life, remainder to brother John Brownlow. Mentions the five children of his sister Margaret, and the six children of his late uncle John Brownlow, four of whom he names, viz., Margaret, Alice, Richard, and Nicholas Brownlow. "I give and bequeath £50 to the said John Bradley, Thomas Waddington of Heath Charnock, Jonathan Kershaw of Anglezargh, and Roger Bromiley, to bee by them added and joyned to the stock of one hundred pounds given by Thomas Anderton of Rivington, by one indenture bearing date 16<sup>th</sup> Jan., 4<sup>th</sup> W. & M. [1693]; the said £50 and the yearly profit thereof to bee in all things ordered and disposed for ever as the said £100 and the yearly profit thereof are directed and appointed to be bestowed," &c. Mentions "Brother John and sister Margaret."

To John Bradley, son of John Bradley of Rivington, schoolm<sup>r</sup>, he leaves £5. Residue among nephews and nieces.

Executrix, his wife Elizabeth. 28 Nov: 1697.

GEORGE BROWNLOW.

[sgd.]

Witnesses: William Breres, Martha Breres, Benezzer Woods, James Worsley.

Proved 7 May 1698 by sole exix. Inventory valued at £454, 7s. 2d.

FROM THE RATE BOOK FOR BOLTON, DATED 24 NOV: 1686.

(*In the possession of W. H. Lever, Esq.*)

RIVINGTON POOR.<sup>1</sup>

Jane Thornley[s] children	.	.	.	.	£0	2	0
Jo <sup>n</sup> Horrobin	.	.	.	.	0	1	0
Richard Woodworth	.	.	.	.	0	2	6
Anthony Symm	.	.	.	.	0	2	0
Hen: Slater	.	.	.	.	0	0	8
Ann: Crompton	.	.	.	.	0	0	8
Widd: Ellison	.	.	.	.	0	2	0
Will <sup>m</sup> Nicholson	.	.	.	.	0	4	6
Will <sup>m</sup> Cocker	.	.	.	.	0	2	0
Jane Pendlebury	.	.	.	.	0	2	6
Hugh Latham	.	.	.	.	0	0	4
Widd: Mather	.	.	.	.	0	1	6
Will <sup>m</sup> Makeinson	.	.	.	.	0	0	10
					£1	2	6

<sup>1</sup> These are monthly payments of outdoor relief.



## RIVINGTON TAX.

Mr Robt. Lever . . . . .	£0 3 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr John Breirs . . . . .	0 3 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Occ[upier] New Hall . . . . .	0 1 8
Peter Bradley . . . . .	0 1 8
John Isherwood . . . . .	0 1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tho: Allin . . . . .	0 1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mr John Bradley . . . . .	0 1 11
Pilkington ten <sup>t</sup> . . . . .	0 1 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Roger Finch . . . . .	0 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tho: Finch . . . . .	0 1 1
Evan Worsley . . . . .	0 1 1
Occ[upier] James Brindle's ten <sup>t</sup> . . . . .	0 1 1
Occ[upier] John Brownlowe's ten <sup>t</sup> . . . . .	0 0 10
Peter Anderton . . . . .	0 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr Thomas Nightingale . . . . .	0 0 7
Jo <sup>n</sup> Walker . . . . .	0 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tho: Waddington . . . . .	0 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rob <sup>t</sup> Cocker . . . . .	0 0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tho: Morris . . . . .	0 0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tho: Whalley . . . . .	0 0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
John Charnley . . . . .	0 0 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
John Symm . . . . .	0 0 4
Great house . . . . .	0 2 2
Will <sup>m</sup> Crosse . . . . .	0 1 10
Wards ten <sup>t</sup> . . . . .	0 1 8
Will <sup>m</sup> Jepson . . . . .	0 1 8
Rog <sup>r</sup> Hamer . . . . .	0 1 8
Geo: Brownelow . . . . .	0 1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Will <sup>m</sup> Entwisle . . . . .	0 1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hugh Willoughby, Esq <sup>r</sup> , with Barneses . . . . .	0 1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tho: Anderton . . . . .	0 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ainsworth['s] ten <sup>t</sup> . . . . .	0 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Isack Gill . . . . .	0 0 10
Rob <sup>t</sup> Gill . . . . .	0 0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Geo: Browne . . . . .	0 0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Jo <sup>n</sup> Darbyshire, sen <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	0 0 5
Jo <sup>n</sup> Darbyshire, jun <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	0 0 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Richard Latham . . . . .	0 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jo <sup>n</sup> Brownloe . . . . .	0 0 7
Jolley House . . . . .	0 0 2
	<hr/>
	£2 2 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

## WILL OF THOMAS ANDERTON OF GREAT HOUSE, 1702.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

25 Dec: 1702.—“Thomas Anderton of Rivington, yeoman, beinge old and infirme.” Mentions his wife Alice and his daughter Jennet. “As concerninge my Messuage and Tenement in Rivington called the Great House beinge mine own lands of inheritance” he leaves one third interest to his wife during life and two thirds to his two children Robert and Jennet till Robert attains 21 when the two thirds go to Robert together with the wife’s portion after her death subject to a payment of £100 to daughter Jennett. He makes Margaret his sister and John Bradley, Schoolm<sup>r</sup>, tutor of both his children. Wife sole Exix.

25 Dec: 1702.

THOS. ANDERTON.

[sgd.]

Witnesses: Henry Ainsworth, John Horrobin, Henry Lees.

Proved 23 Aug: 1705, by sole Exix.

Inv: by John Brownlow, Richard Brownlow, Rob<sup>t</sup> Gill, all of Rivington, and John Shaw of Anderton, 3 Oct: 1704.

[*Inter alia.*] “At the house in Anderton.”

Sum, £392, 4s. 1d.

## WILL OF REV: JOHN WALKER OF RIVINGTON, .1702.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

29 May 1702.—“John Walker of Heath Charnocke, C<sup>o</sup> Lanc: Minister of the Gospel being infirme in body,” &c. “Lands of inheritance in Castleton near Rochdale” to son John for life, remainder to his heirs male, remainder to Alexander and Benjamin testator’s sons and their heirs male. To “loving wife Jennet £10 a year.” Mentions lands &c. “in C<sup>o</sup> Sussex, and one fee farme rent of £20 issuing out of the Manor of Kingston-Bowsey and Southwyke and £15 of penny rent due upon a

demise of the Manor of Shermanbury, Co Sussex," and whereas John Fielden late of Sherburn St. John Co of Southampton gent. did devise same to testator by his last will and testament upon condition to sell same, and whereas he did sell to Peter Walker of London for £600 upon trust to certain uses, &c. Mentions daughter Elizabeth, Hanna Walker, daughter of brother Abraham deceased. Makes wife and son-in-law, John Bradley, Exors: Alexander and Benjamin being under age. Mentions two little parcels of land in Blindhurst Hoomes bought of Mr. Peter Shaw of Heath-Charnock.

JOHN WALKER.

[sgd.]

Witnesses: Henry Chrichlowe, George Leigh, William Newton.

Proved 16 Dec: 1703 by widow, Bradley renouncing.

Inv: June 17 1702, valued by John Pierson, John Sale, Thos: Dicconson and Thos: Morris. Sum total, £615, 9s. 8d.

#### WILL OF JOHN DARBISHIRE OF RIVINGTON, 1710.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

7th Feb: 1709[10].—John Darbshire of Rivington Co Lanc: Yeoman. "I give £10 for and towards the maintenance of a minister at the Chappell lately built in Rivington for a dissenting minister to officiate in." Mentions Jas: Darbshire my brother, Edward Darbshire my brother, Elizabeth and Margaret my sisters, W<sup>m</sup> Darbshire my brother, Thos: and Oliver sons of Jas: Darbshire, John, son of Jas: Darbshire the younger. Residue to Jane his wife. Lands and tenements in Rivington to wife for life, remainder to brother W<sup>m</sup> Darbshire and to Edwd: Darbshire his brother equally.

Wit: Mary Shaw, James Worsley, Edm: Sweetlove.

Proved 17 May 1710.

Inv: by James Worsley, Edmund Sweetlove, W<sup>m</sup> Darbshire, and Edward Darbyshire. Feb: 13 1709[10.]

WILL OF RALPH AINSWORTH, MINISTER OF RIVINGTON  
CHAPEL, 1716.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

Ralph Ainsworth of Rivington in County of Lanc: Clerke, leaves goods to his eldest son Abraham Ainsworth. Mentions his messuage and tenement in Burtonwood held by lease under — Bold of Bold Esq. Leaves to his second son Nathaniel Ainsworth two tenements in Chorley, one under Rich: Chorley of Chorley Esq: dec<sup>d</sup>, and the other under S<sup>r</sup> Nich: Shearburne of Stanihurst, Bart. Leaves to his third son Joshua Ainsworth his books, &c. Mentions his lands in Farnworth. Residue to his only daughter Mary Ainsworth [under 21 and unmarried].

Executor, Kinsman Mr. Jirejah Finch, of Shiffington, 27 March 1716.

RA: AINSWORTH.

[sgd.]

Wit: James Milne, Thomas Bromley.

[Executor named renounced, administration granted to his widow, Sarah.]

Inv: 26 Ap. 1716 by Mr. John Heddock, Ric: Brownlow Thos: Joly.

WILL OF ROBERT ANDERTON OF GREAT HOUSE, 1716.

(*Rivington Muniments.*)

10 Oct: 1716.—Robert Anderton, of Rivington, C<sup>o</sup> Lanc: gentleman. Mentions his loving mother Alice Bate, his uncle Thomas Whalley, cozen W<sup>m</sup> Sharrock of Euxton, cozen Ellen Sharrock, his sister, cozen Elizabeth Ainsworth, wife of John Ainsworth of Heapey, cozen Alice Bolton, daughter of his aunt Ann Bolton, John, James, and William Anderton, sons of Robt: Anderton, late of Heath Charnock. Leaves the tenement called Great House in Rivington to John Walker of Heath Charnock, clerk, and Edmund Sweetlove of Rivington, schoolmaster, on trust, to pay £100 to his sister Jennet, the wife of John Morris, and to Thos: Morris, her son, with remainder to heirs of Thos: Anderton, son of Jas: Anderton, of Heath Charnock, and ultimate remainder to testator's right heirs.

Mentions his mother's husband, John Bate. Mentions "the tenement in Anderton which I hold under the family of Lostock." Makes John Walker and Edmund Sweetlove, executors.

Witnesses: Alice Sharock, John Bradley, Wroughtington Woosey.

Proved 19 Nov: 1717 by Edmund Sweetlove. Power reserved.

#### REPORT ON THE CHAPELRY OF RIVINGTON (c. 1720).

(*Gastrell's Notitia*, Vol. II. Part I., p. 19.)

##### RIVINGTON.

Certif[ied] 28<sup>l</sup> 00<sup>s</sup> 00<sup>d</sup> viz.; 4<sup>l</sup> from y<sup>e</sup> owners of y<sup>e</sup> Old Hall; 10<sup>l</sup> int[erest] of 200<sup>l</sup> given by M<sup>r</sup> G. Shaw; 7<sup>l</sup> 10<sup>s</sup> int[erest] of 150<sup>l</sup> given by M<sup>r</sup> J[ohn] Fielding; 4<sup>l</sup> int[erest] of 80<sup>l</sup> upon mortgage on land; 1<sup>l</sup> 10<sup>s</sup> int[erest] of half y<sup>e</sup> gift of one Broadhurst [in 1681 "if there shall be a sound orthodox minister there"]; 1<sup>l</sup> int[erest] of 20<sup>l</sup> in [the] hands of John Halliwell.

100<sup>l</sup> given formerly by Tho. Anderton, and 10<sup>l</sup> by his sister, now lost, supposed to have been applied by [the] Diss[enting] Trustees to y<sup>e</sup> maint[enance] of y<sup>r</sup> teacher. Curate's acc<sup>t</sup> to B[ishop] Strat[ford] Pap[er] Reg[ister].

By a grant of Q[ueen] Eliz[abeth] an[no] R[egni] 8, it appears that this Chappel had been built long before, at y<sup>e</sup> charge of y<sup>e</sup> inhab[itants], and was then and thereby made a paroch[ial] chappel, to all intents and purposes, by the Queen: v[ide] grant made to [the] Gov[ernors] of [the] Free School by y<sup>e</sup> Queen, by authority of Parl<sup>t</sup>. Pap. Reg.

[The] Chap[el] was built for y<sup>e</sup> use of [the] inhab[itants] of Rivington, Anglezark, Hemshaws, and Foulds, who were then reckoned to be 500.

The inhab[itants] at their proper charges to find a Curate. This grant [was] made to y<sup>e</sup> Gov[ernors] of y<sup>e</sup> School, but no power [was] given them to choose a Curate. V[ide] grant.

1 warden an[no] 1673.

Hamlets 2, Riv[ington] and Anlezark.

*Hall*.—Rivington Hall. 6 m[iles] from [the] Par[ish] Church; 2 from Blackrode.



*School*.—A Free Gram[mar] School founded by Jam[es] Pilkington, B[ishop] of Durham, 8 Eliz. Revenue in rent and rent charges about 40<sup>l</sup> p[er] an[num].

Upon a vacancy of [the] Master, the 6 Governours (who are made a Corporation) are to name 2 persons to [the] Master and Sen[ior] Fellows of St John's, Camb[ridge,] they [are] to elect one of y<sup>m</sup> in six weeks, otherwise y<sup>e</sup> Master, &c. to nominate. [The] Usher to be named by [the] Govern[ors] in a month, otherwise [the] B[ishop] of Durham or [of] Chester to nominate. V[ide] Abstract of Foundation, Pap. Reg.

*Charities*.—Given by John Shaw 200<sup>l</sup>; John Broadhurst (in 1681) 60<sup>l</sup>; The int[erest] of [one] half to [be given to] y<sup>e</sup> poor, and 10<sup>l</sup> int[erest] to his poor relations in Rivington.

#### WILL OF JAMES WORSLEY OF RIVINGTON, 1720.

(*Chester Probate Registry.*)

5 October 1720.—James Worsley of Rivington, yeoman. "I give £10 for the maintenance of a preaching Minister at the Chappell or Meeting-place of the Dissenters in Rivington." He leaves to John Worsley of Rivington £3, and to Rich: Worsley of Rivington £3. To his brother "John Worsley's two daughters," 40s. each. To his son-in-law John Shaw, 5s. Residue of personalty to "Esther, my wife." Mentions "Grandchild Catherine, daughter of John Shaw of Anderton." Real estate to his wife and said granddaughter. Wife sole executrix. Wit: Rob<sup>t</sup> Hampson, Nicholas Hunt, Edm: Sweetlove.

Inv: 3 Nov: 1720 by Ric: Brownlow, John Shaw, Thos: Brownlow, Henry Ainsworth. Total £470, 15s. 2d.

(*Inter alia*) A charge upon the estate called Crosse's, £200.

Proved 4 Nov: 1720.

#### WILL OF JOHN ANDREWS OF BOLTON, 1743.

(*Rivington Muniments.*)

"John Andrews of Bolton le Moors, Co Lanc: gentleman." Mentions capital messuage, &c., in Little Lever, coal mines, &c., and leaves them to

Joseph Wilson, his son-in-law, and his nephew, Joseph Andrews. Mentions his grandson John Andrews Wilson, his wife Abigail, his granddaughter Lydia Wilson, his capital messuage, &c., in Rivington, "Cozen Robert Andrews," James Andrews, and Hannah Dorning, and the two daughters of his late brother-in-law John Sharples, deceased, son-in-law Joseph Wilson and his daughter Abigail Andrews, his wife deceased, "Cosen Hannah Walmisley," "Cosen Edward and Geo: Walmsley."

Jos: Wilson and Jos: Andrew, Exors. 16 March 1742-3.

JOHN ANDREWS.

[sgd.]

Witnesses : Jno: Buck, Rich: Clough, and John Leadbeater.

Codiciil dated 31 March 1743.

Proved at Chester 15th March 1747.

LIST OF TRUSTEES OF THE NONCONFORMIST CHAPEL,  
31 July 1786.

(*From the Close Rolls, Public Record Office, 26 Geo. III., Part 6, No. 5.*)

INDENTURE, dated 31 July 1786, between

Robert Andrews of Rivington, Esq: on the one part; and  
Abraham Crompton the younger, of Chorley, Esq:  
John Pilkington of Bolton, Doctor of Physic,  
Samuel Duckenfield Darbishire of Bolton, merchant,  
Thomas Oldknow of Heaton Norris, whitster,  
Samuel Oldknow of Stockport, merchant,  
Robert Greenhalgh of Horwich, gent.,  
John Hampson of Rivington, yeoman,  
William Horrocks of Rivington, miller,  
Richard Brownlow, the younger, of Rivington, yeoman,  
Rev: Philip Holland of Bolton, clerk,  
Rev: Thomas Barns of Manchester, D.D.,  
Rev: Ralph Harrison, of Manchester, clerk,  
Rev: Joseph Lawton Siddall of Chorley, clerk,  
Rev: Jonathan Hodgkinson of Bolton, clerk.

Samuel Hardman of Manchester, merchant,  
 Henry Norris of Manchester, Esq:  
 John Worthington of Stockport, mercer,  
 Samuel Marsland of Stockport, merchant, of the other part.

The piece of land conveyed for the manse is bounded as to 14 yards on the north-east by the Paddock, as to 43 yards on the south-east by the Long Meadow, as to 40 yards on the south-west by the Gooschey, and as to 43 yards on the north-west by the Sheephouse Lane.

*(Obligingly communicated by E. G. Atkinson, Esq.)*

#### THE PILKINGTON PICTURE.

Some account of the interesting Pilkington picture must here be given. Colonel Pilkington states that it was originally placed in the Grammar School, but subsequently moved to the church. The following account is very kindly supplied by Colonel Pilkington:—

The architectural setting of the painting, most likely, is meant to be a conventional view of the nave of Durham Cathedral, drawn from description rather than from the building, as the design is a structural impossibility, and represents no known style correctly.

One characteristic deserves special notice. The costumes, which at that period distinguished to a great extent the status of the wearers, are most accurately delineated, as well as the official ecclesiastical vestments. Among these it may be remarked that the figure of the Bishop, represented in the pulpit in the background, is shown wearing his episcopal robes, with the cap peculiar to the time.

Displayed along the wall, between the columns supporting the roof, and hanging on hooks, are four cut and scrolled Elizabethan framework panels, bearing the following inscriptions:—

#### FIRST PANEL.

"Richard' Pilki'gton' qui tēplū hoc condidit, hic sepeliebatur, año  
 " domini 1551, et Maii 24 tunc dñica trinitatis ac aetatis suae 65, Bonae  
 " memoriae vir."

*Translation.*—"Richard Pilkington, who built this church, was buried here in the year of our Lord 1551, and the 24th May, then Trinity Sunday, aged 65. A man of good esteem.")

## SECOND PANEL.

" Alicia Asshaw, ei' uxor, 12 liberos ei peperit e quib' tres Cõsionatores  
 " sũt et Cãtabrigien. e Collegio S. Johãnis, ac ea vivit octogenaria."  
 " Fathers teache yo<sup>r</sup> childrẽ nurtur and learning of the Lord."

*Translation.*—(Alice Asshaw, his wife, bore him 12 children, of whom three are preachers and of St. John's College, Cambridge. She lived 80 years. Fathers teach your children nurture and learning of the Lord.)

## THIRD PANEL.

" Jacobus illorum filius creat' Episcop' Dunolmẽ, 2 Martii año 1560, et  
 " aetatis suae 42, hanc scholã aperuit año 1566 et tẽplũ." " Childrẽ obey  
 " your parts in the Lord."

*Translation.*—(James, their son, became Bishop of Durham on the 2nd March, in the year 1560, and the 42nd year of his age. He opened this school and church in the year 1566. Children obey your parents in the Lord.)

## FOURTH PANEL.

" Let your lights shine so before men y<sup>t</sup> they may see yo<sup>r</sup> good works,  
 " and praise yo<sup>r</sup> father in heaven. Lord save us, we perish. Lord  
 " cñcrease our faith."

At a table on the left of the picture there are fourteen figures at prayer, which represent Richard Pilkington, Alice his wife, and their children. The seven sons (including the Bishop in his rochet and chimere) are kneeling behind their father at one side of the table, and on the other are the five daughters behind their mother.

Over the table is hung, against a pillar, the family escutcheon emblazoned, *Argent a cross patonce Gules voided of the field*, with the mark of cadency of a second son [*a crescent Azure*] in the dexter chief, surmounted by the crest, *a mower with his scythe*. The mark of cadency refers to Richard's lineal descent from Robert, Lord of Rivington, the second son of the Sir Roger Pilkington who died in 1347.

To the pillar on the right is attached an ornamental shield of the arms of the See of Durham, impaling those of Bishop Pilkington, which show the augmentation granted to him on the 10th of February, 1561, by Sir

Gilbert Dethicke, Garter King of Arms, viz., *Argent a cross patonce Gules voided of the field, on a chief vert, 3 suns Or*, with the marks of cadency of a second son. Above these arms, in place of a crest, is a figure of the Bishop, robed, in a pulpit, in the act of preaching.

Below this again, is a triple carved Elizabethan frame, in the centre compartment of which are the arms of the Bishop, as already described, impaling those of his wife Alice, daughter of Sir John Kingsmill:—*Argent, semée of cross-crosslets fitchée Sable, a chevron ermines, between 3 mill-rinds of the second, a chief ermines*.

The remaining compartments, like the former, contain inscriptions partly in Latin and partly in English:—

"Thus shall the man be blessed y<sup>t</sup> fears y<sup>e</sup> Lord. Be trustie unto death and I will give thee life to come."

"Quod deus conjunxit homo non separet." "Come, Lord Jesus, come quicklie."

*Translation*.—"What God hath joined let no man separate." "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly."

Along the top of the painting, in bold letters, are the words:—

"Vivit post funera virtus." (Virtue lives after death.)

The original picture, which measures 53 by 35 inches, unluckily was considerably damaged on the 1st December, 1834, owing to a pile of wooden benches having been set fire to whilst the church was being cleaned. Fortunately, a careful copy had been made in 1821 for Mr. John Pilkington of Bolton, by his daughter Miss Jane Noble Pilkington, which afterwards became the property of his son-in-law the late Mr. William Ormerod Pilkington of Preston, and from it and what remained of the original, the copy which now hangs in Rivington Church was executed in 1835. In the Rivington accounts for 1835 there is an entry—"Paid for copying the picture of the Pilkington family in Rivington Church, £11, 10s. 6d."

The scorched remains of this ancient family relic are now (1904) in the possession of Colonel John Pilkington of Wavertree (who kindly supplied the foregoing particulars), having been given to him by Mr. Crompton of Rivington Hall.





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